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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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NO. 1



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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

Our thanks go to Wayne M. Mason for the excellent cover photograph of a Tundra Swan observed at Three Springs Lake, Bowling Green.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1984-1985

Reports of 22 counts from across the state were received and their data tabulated. The relatively mild weather conditions experienced prior to and during the count period may have accounted for the low numbers of certain waterfowl, winter roost and northern finch species, as well as, the unusual occurrences of summer residents. Species represented by a single bird observed only on one count are not included in the table. These include a Tree Swallow, Northern Oriole, Marsh Wren (Ballard County), Blue-winged Teal (Land Between the Lakes), Mountain Bluebird (Otter Creek Park), Double-crested Cormorant (Louisville), a female Merlin, an immature Black-crowned Night Heron (Frankfort) and a Great Egret (Lexington). A total of 112 species was recorded. The addition of a Double-crested Cormorant (Louisville), 35 Water Pipits (Danville) and 20 Evening Grosbeaks (Rowan County) observed during the count period brought the total to 115 species. Ten species were recorded on all counts and 12 species were recorded only on one count. The occurrence of a Mountain Bluebird was an exciting, well documented addition as was the female Merlin.

Although data from winter counts are crude at best, several trends were apparent. The Eastern Bluebird continues to increase in numbers from 972 reported last year to 1,505 this year. Red-headed Woodpeckers were well represented throughout the state, but especially in the western portion with record numbers being recorded in Ballard County. An effort to establish a colony of Wild Turkeys at Mammoth Cave National Park appears to have been successful. It will be interesting to follow the condition of this population in the future. The increase in numbers of American Crows, American Robins and Winter Wrens and the decrease in numbers of winter roost species may have resulted from milder weather conditions.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms on unusual sightings. Thanks are also extended for the comments regarding unusual weather conditions, habitat and interesting sightings.

BALLARD COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center and habitat as described in 1984). Dec. 29; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 59 to 69° F; wind S-SW, 5-40 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in five parties. Total party-hours 29.25 (16.5 on foot, 12.75 by car). Total party miles 146 (16 on foot, 130 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 40,037.

The windy conditions hindered birding efforts. Nevertheless, highlights of the count included four species of late-lingering summer residents, all well described: a male Northern Oriole, a Tree Swallow, a Marsh Wren and a pair of Dickcissels. In addition, a possible national high of 357 Red-headed Woodpeckers was recorded. The Snow Geese were approximately 70% "Blue" Geese and 30% "Snow" Geese. — Mary Bill Bauer, John Calahan, Kathryn Clay, Doris Garst, Terry Koontz, Robert Morris, Barry Nichols, Eudoxia Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Glenn Raleigh, Lene Rauth, Stephen Washburn, Sally Wasielewski, Jim Williams.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter

circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground as described in 1984). Habitat: lake and stream shores 35%, deciduous and pine woods 30%, overgrown and cultivated fields 20%, residential and small business 15%. Dec. 14, 5:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 54 to 70° F; wind SW, 0-3 m.p.h. Twenty-eight observers in seven parties. Total party-hours 54 (21.5 on foot, 32.5 by car). Total party-miles 408 (21.5 on foot, 386.5 by car). Total species 85; total individuals 5,309.

Waterfowl in the LBL area, as in most places I suspect, were down in both species and individual numbers; only the Ring-necked Duck seemed to be present in average numbers. Gulls also were down in total numbers. The Bonaparte's Gulls and the tern (sp.), the three Dunlin and peep (sp.) were observed by Joe Tom Erwin and Mike Miller at Jonathan Creek at the edge of the count area. On December 16, Ed Ray observed five Turkey Vultures, apparently migrating, and one Black Vulture soaring at a point on the perimeter of the count area at about one o'clock. — George Beringer, Bonnie Braun, Wally Brines, Happy Chambers, Mark Crass, Jack and Lorine Dodd, Melissa Easley, Roger Eberhardt, Joe Erwin, Donn Manning, Mike Miller, Carl Jr. and Carl III Mowery, Joyce North, Mindy North, Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence and LouAnn Philpot, Ed Ray, Peggy Reynolds, Martin and Seah Shamlan, Bill Sledd, Robert Smith, Mike Todd, Shawnia Weasel, Steve White.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove). Habitat: open fields, woodlands, ponds and creeks. Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 42 to 38° F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours 14 (12 by foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car). Total species 31; total individuals 809.

Birds have been extremely scarce in this area all fall and thus far this winter. — C. L. Frazer (compiler) and Marie Frazer.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279 and Audubon Parkway and the Wilson Farm). Habitat: same as described in 1982. Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 62 to 70° F; wind W, 12 m.p.h. Eleven observers in four parties. Total party-hours 77 (44 on foot, 33 by car). Total party-miles 84 (8 on foot, 76 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 3,832. — Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Tommy Hicks, John Humphrey, Ramon Iles, A. L. (Bert) Powell, Millie Powell, Thomas Stevenson, Ann Wilson, Ed Wilson (compiler), Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON (center and habitat as described in 1982). Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast with intermittent sun; temp. 44 to 50° F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Twelve observers in four parties. Total party-hours 30 (20 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles 46 (12 on foot, 34 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 1,530.

The finding of the Great Blue Heron is noteworthy. We are pleased with the number of Bluebirds (58) that was found. By contrast, only one Common Grackle was located (This is unusual). The lack of waterfowl, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Hermit Thrushes and other previously common species was disturbing.

The importance of backyard feeders must be emphasized, as the only Winter Wren was found at the Ray's yard. A sizable list was turned in

by Maudie Ray from her feeder and yard. There was also much activity at the Powell feeder and yard. — Joey Brown, Mary Brown, Mike Brown, Tom Hicks, John Humphrey, Ray Iles, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Rose Ann Radzelovage, Maudie Ray, Tommy Stevenson, and Anne Wilson.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville). Habitat: field and woodland areas, creek bottom. Dec. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 53 to 62° F; wind NW, 1-5 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 7 (6 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 16 (6 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 16; total individuals 68.

The absence of House Sparrows, Starlings and Grackles was unusual. — Rose Ann Radzelovage (compiler), Walter Radzelovage.

MADISONVILLE (Center and habitat as described in 1983). Dec. 31; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 54 to 65° F; wind E, 5-15 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 44 (6 on foot, 38 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 1,746.

Some waterfowl were down in numbers this season, such as American Widgeons and Canvasbacks. However, some Ruddy Ducks may have been present on Lake Pewee (450 acres) since 26 were seen there on December 29. — James W. Hancock (compiler), Allen Morgan.

HOPKINSVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the intersection of SR 68 and Pennyryle Pkwy. (36°52'N, 87°28'W).) Habitat: farmland 43%, deciduous woodland 27%, pond and lakesides 20%, river and streamsides 6%, residential 4%. Dec. 22; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 30° to 51° F; wind NW, 0-7 m.p.h. The entire month of December was very mild with some days in the low 70's. Ten observers in four parties. Total party-hours 34.5 (16 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party-miles 256 (13 on foot, 243 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 3,232. — George Beringer (compiler), David and Jenny Chiles, Freddie and Kathy Higgins, Tom and Helen Marshall, Mary Lou McReynolds, Roger and Maggie Selvidge. (Little River Audubon Society).

BOWLING GREEN (center and habitat as described in 1980). Dec. 15; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 59 to 66° F; wind W, 0-4 m.p.h. It was unusually warm. Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours 22 (16 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 148 (12 on foot, 136 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 5,940.

Perhaps due to the mild fall weather, some of the hardy winter species were low in number or absent. Food was abundant for Robins and seed-eaters. — Blaine R. Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason, Bill and Ruth Mathes, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Allen Stickley, Jr.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980). Dec. 16; 6:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 59 to 67° F; wind W, 0-7 m.p.h. Five observers in three parties. Total party-hours 24 (20 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 111.5 (16.5 on foot, 95 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 1,319.

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1984-1985

| MID-WINTER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| BIRD COUNT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1984-1985 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | BALLARD COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | MADISONVILLE | HOPKINSVILLE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE N. PK. | GLASGOW | OTTER CREEK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | ROWAN COUNTY | PERRY COUNTY |
| COMMON LOON | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | 1 | | | 2 | |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | 1 | 13 | | | 4 | 24 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | | 2 | |
| HORNED GREBE | | | | | | * | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 23 | 28 | * | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 29 | | | | | 21 | 2 | 8 | | 29 | 8 | * | 5 | |
| SNOW GOOSE | 8000 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | 25000 | 343 | * | | | | | | | | | 92 | 1 | 158 | | | | 8 | 227 | 26 | | |
| WOOD DUCK | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 4 | 2 | | | 22 | | | | | | 4 | 9 | 1 | | |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | 233 | 94 | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | 203 | 3 | 14 | | 10 | 40 | | 4 | |
| MALLARD | 1418 | 755 | | 15 | | * | | 30 | 60 | | 76 | 15 | | 992 | 26 | 87 | 2 | 283 | 135 | | 419 | |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | 25 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | |
| GADWALL | 5 | 37 | | | | * | | 12 | | | | | | | 3 | | | 25 | 10 | | 2 | |
| AMERICAN WIDGEON | 1 | 3 | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | 13 | | | | 7 | | | | |
| CANVASBACK | | 6 | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | 8 | | | | 3 | | | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | | 336 | | | | 320 | 3 | | | | | 1 | | 70 | 1 | | | 4 | | | 1 | |
| LESSER SCAUP | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 18 | * | 3 | | 13 | | | 2 | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | | 14 | | | | * | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 12 | | | 1 | |
| BUFFLEHEAD | | 4 | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | 10 | |
| HOODED MERGANSER | | 89 | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | | | 6 | |
| COMMON MERGANSER | | 137 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | |
| RED-BR. MERGANSER | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | * | | | 5 | | | | |
| RUDDY DUCK | | 3 | | | | 8 | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | |

[illegible]

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1984-1985

| | BALLARD COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | MADISONVILLE | HOPKINSVILLE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE N. PK. | GLASGOW | OTTER CREEK | BERNHHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | ROWAN COUNTY | PERRY COUNTY |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| EASTERN PHOEBE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HORNED LARK | 78 | | | 40 | 150 | | | | 86 | 1 | 12 | 20 | 55 | 2 | | | | 22 | 2 | | 1 | 1 |
| BLUE JAY | 58 | | 24 | 81 | 50 | | | | 28 | 8 | 10 | 60 | 40 | 180 | 5 | 45 | 7 | 64 | 33 | 16 | 29 | 10 |
| AMERICAN CROW | 24 | 58 | 2 | 949 | 32 | 1 | 4 | 48 | 102 | 127 | 147 | 193 | 1031 | 588 | 55 | 700 | 177 | 17674 | 211 | 98 | 11 | 20 |
| CAROLINA CHICKADEE | 89 | 25 | 14 | 20 | 45 | 4 | 9 | 28 | 45 | 54 | 26 | 74 | 198 | 313 | 25 | 138 | 37 | 236 | 212 | 55 | 38 | 8 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 89 | 79 | 6 | 19 | 50 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 34 | 50 | 11 | 46 | 81 | 285 | 15 | 100 | 9 | 146 | 89 | 34 | 16 | 1 |
| RED-BR. NUTHATCH | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 5 | | | 2 | |
| WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH | 8 | 16 | 2 | 5 | 6 | | 2 | 6 | 19 | 13 | 5 | 22 | 31 | 37 | | 9 | | 12 | 15 | 23 | 7 | 1 |
| BROWN CREEPER | 22 | 5 | | 1 | 6 | | | 2 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 30 | | 12 | | 35 | 11 | * | 2 | 1 |
| CAROLINA WREN | 26 | 29 | | 8 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 4 | 16 | 19 | 28 | 95 | 4 | 32 | 16 | 116 | 21 | 18 | 4 | 1 |
| BEWICK'S WREN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| WINTER WREN | 14 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 12 | | 3 | 2 | 6 | | | 1 | |
| GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET | 40 | 6 | * | | | | 2 | | 13 | 32 | 5 | 11 | 67 | 22 | | 51 | 5 | 106 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 1 |
| RUBY-CR. KINGLET | 1 | 4 | | | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | 5 | | 15 | | |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD | 15 | 115 | 2 | 10 | 58 | 3 | * | 44 | 40 | 14 | 45 | 182 | 184 | 84 | 29 | 155 | 50 | 271 | 132 | 69 | 2 | 1 |
| HERMIT THRUSH | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 6 | 2 | | | | | 8 | | | 1 | |
| AMERICAN ROBIN | 136 | 29 | 2 | 8 | 25 | 4 | 104 | 67 | 750 | 148 | 264 | 130 | 819 | 948 | 173 | 951 | 594 | 741 | 107 | 1267 | 8 | 35 |
| N. MOCKINGBIRD | 26 | 10 | 16 | 37 | 20 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 49 | 1 | 27 | 32 | 26 | 110 | 5 | 47 | 4 | 93 | 52 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| BROWN THRASHER | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | | * | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | |
| CEDAR WAXWING | 30 | 58 | | | 25 | | | 12 | 26 | 117 | 27 | 28 | 437 | 81 | 15 | 9 | 310 | 27 | 6 | | 20 | 40 |
| LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | 8 | | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | * | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | |
| EUROPEAN STARLING | 900 | 430 | 18 | 232 | 57 | | 52 | 1114 | 450 | 7 | 623 | 1278 | 7752 | 44863 | 845 | 2641 | 589 | 3733 | 3767 | 1385 | 67 | 50 |
| Y.-RUMPED WARBLER | 31 | 10 | | | | | | 16 | 17 | 102 | 4 | 255 | 106 | 20 | 3 | 5 | 52 | 72 | 12 | 1 | | 4 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| PALM WARBLER | 146 | 75 | 56 | 93 | 111 | 10 | 34 | 114 | 106 | 40 | 164 | 125 | 219 | 662 | 40 | 230 | 44 | 644 | 275 | 66 | 43 | 16 |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 3 | | | |
| DICKCISSEL | 16 | 18 | 2 | 13 | 15 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 45 | 6 | 11 | 40 | 20 | 47 | 6 | 37 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 5 | 4 | |
| RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE | 10 | 6 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 16 | 3 | 7 | | 1 | | 1 | 8 | | | |
| AM. TREE SPARROW | 56 | 18 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 28 | 44 | 23 | 21 | 87 | 30 | 47 | | 23 | 6 | 46 | 49 | 2 | 25 | |
| FIELD SPARROW | 5 | | | | | | | | 4 | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| SAVANNAH SPARROW | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GRASSHOPPER SPARROW | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 11 | | 3 | 7 | | 2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | |
| FOX SPARROW | 107 | 44 | 3 | 61 | 36 | | 9 | 34 | 107 | 7 | 95 | 181 | 90 | 452 | 22 | 178 | 27 | 198 | 141 | 28 | 28 | |
| SONG SPARROW | 67 | 53 | | | 5 | | 3 | 2 | 14 | | 12 | 24 | 3 | 20 | | 1 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 3 | |
| SWAMP SPARROW | 423 | 79 | 46 | 27 | 130 | 1 | 14 | 97 | 288 | 56 | 226 | 131 | 246 | 511 | 3 | 228 | 40 | 217 | 129 | 29 | 62 | |
| WHITE-THR. SPARROW | 47 | 60 | 13 | 30 | 30 | | 7 | 36 | 15 | | 4 | 96 | 27 | 38 | 8 | 29 | | 44 | 51 | 1 | 2 | |
| WHITE-CR. SPARROW | 468 | 261 | 155 | 16 | 60 | 35 | 16 | 163 | 85 | 182 | 97 | 437 | 514 | 367 | 44 | 487 | 199 | 289 | 66 | 63 | 98 | |
| DARK-EYED JUNCO | 571 | 63 | 14 | | | | 250 | 31 | 114 | 16 | 211 | 34 | 10 | 331 | 5 | 2 | | 171 | 14 | 9 | 1 | |
| RED-W. BLACKBIRD | 56 | 24 | 36 | 27 | | | 8 | 177 | 67 | | 14 | 42 | 44 | 54 | 10 | 18 | 17 | 74 | 247 | 6 | 2 | |
| E. MEADOWLARK | 12 | 68 | | | | | 4 | | 3 | | | | | 5333 | 26 | 23 | | 26 | 208 | | | |
| RUSTY BLACKBIRD | 268 | 39 | 10 | 1 | | | 25 | 152 | 2410 | 4 | 1578 | 102 | 59590 | 33 | 35 | 2 | 158 | 421 | 3 | | | |
| COMMON GRACKLE | 47 | | 500 | | | | | 6 | 12 | 2 | 61 | | 7 | 5191 | 1 | 1 | | 295 | 56 | 6 | | |
| BR.-HEADED COWBIRD | | 1 | | 8 | | | 1 | 1 | | 49 | 19 | 3 | 16 | 9 | | 46 | 53 | 37 | 8 | 13 | 2 | |
| PURPLE FINCH | | | | | | | | | 38 | | | 2 | 1 | 66 | 1 | 20 | | 82 | 97 | 50 | | |
| HOUSE FINCH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 25 | | | | 6 | | | | |
| PINE SISKIN | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AMERICAN GOLDFINCH | 34 | 86 | 97 | 27 | | | 5 | 35 | 44 | 72 | 28 | 84 | 100 | 248 | 69 | 291 | 27 | 301 | 75 | 90 | 30 | |
| HOUSE SPARROW | 705 | 93 | 300 | 1287 | 200 | | 81 | 333 | 155 | | 80 | 380 | 377 | 483 | 105 | 329 | 4 | 9730 | 528 | 144 | 100 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|
| DAY OF COUNT | D29 | D14 | J1 | D29 | D22 | D27 | D31 | D22 | D15 | D16 | J1 | D22 | J1 | D16 | D29 | D22 | D29 | D15 | D15 | D29 | D26 | J1 |
| NUMBER OF SPECIES | 75 | 85 | 31 | 44 | 50 | 16 | 44 | 55 | 61 | 48 | 53 | 62 | 63 | 82 | 46 | 63 | 43 | 89 | 66 | 42 | 58 | 33 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 40037 | 5309 | 809 | 3832 | 1530 | 68 | 1746 | 3232 | 5940 | 1319 | 2882 | 6113 | 13276 | 124562 | 1287 | 7660 | 2437 | 37321 | 8618 | 3723 | 1215 | 297 |
| OBSERVERS | 14 | 28 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 29 | 2 | 18 | 5 | 45 | 29 | 15 | 4 | 4 |

* Indicates the species was recorded but not on the count day.

Marquita and Joey flushed the Turkeys on the south bank of the Green River. They flew across the river past the western tip of Sand Island to the north bank of the river. — Blaine R. Ferrell (compiler), Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne Mason, Joey McCombs, H. E. Shadowen.

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center the Barren County Courthouse). Habitat as described previously. Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky heavy overcast; temp. 69 to 39° F; wind S, 5-15 m.p.h., gusting to 30 m.p.h. in the a.m. and N, 10-15 m.p.h., gusting to 20 m.p.h. in the p.m. There was a steady driving rain in the morning. Five observers in four parties. Total party-hours 34 (26 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-miles 142 (14 on foot, 128 by car). Total species 53; total individuals 2,882.

A cold, driving rain and decreasing temperatures throughout the morning hampered birding efforts. Gulls continue to be well represented at Barren River Reservoir, but ducks were noticeably absent on the count day. — Marquita Gillenwater, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Dr. Russell R. Starr.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center two miles southwest of the park entrance, to include fields and small lakes outside the park.) Habitat: brushy fields 38%, fields and pastures 28%, deciduous woods 18%, creeks, lakes and river 12%, towns 4%. Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear to clear; temp. 38 to 41° F; wind W, 13 m.p.h. Creeks, lakes and the river were high and the ground was soggy. Thirteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours 51 (24 on foot, 27 by car). Total party-miles 295 (22 on foot, 273 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 6,113.

Most notable this count was the sighting of a Mountain Bluebird by B. Palmer-Ball, Jr., Richard Cassell and Diane Ebel; two other parties were alerted and subsequently observed them. This is a state record. The same party found the Grasshopper Sparrows. Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Cedar Waxwings were in lower numbers than last year, whereas, Eastern Bluebirds, Field and White-throated Sparrows were up considerably. — Richard Cassell, Diane Ebel, John Getgood, Frank and John Krull, Barry Nichols, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, F. W. and Anne Stamm (compiler), Donald Summerfield.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974). Jan. 1; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 45 to 63° F; wind S-NW, 9-44 m.p.h. There were intermittent periods of rain in the a.m. Twelve observers in five parties. Total party-hours 52 (24.5 on foot, 27.5 by car). Total party-miles 309 (15.5 on foot, 293.5 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 13,276.

High winds made birding very difficult. The male House Finch was a count record. The immature Bald Eagle was observed at a small lake southwest of the forest. — Brad Andres, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Wayne Dahl, Sarah McClellan, Barry Nichols, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Jim Pasikowski, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith, Stephen Washburn.

LOUISVILLE (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 16; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 54 to 72° F; wind SW,

3-15 m.p.h. Twenty-nine observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 92 (48 on foot, 44 by car). Total party-miles 48 (51 on foot, 437 by car). Total species 82; total individuals 124,562.

Generally a very poor year and poor day. Windy conditions made birding difficult. The Ohio River was high and thus species of waterfowl and gulls were down. Generally mild weather in December was probably responsible for low numbers of northern finches.

The only item of real interest is that House Finches continue to increase in the region. No verified rarities were reported. — Garrett Adams, Mary Bauer, John Callahan, Kathryn Clay, Jackie Elmore, Doris Garst, F. H., F. X., John and Mary Krull, Burt Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mark Monroe, Kay Mudd, Dot Muntan, E. T. and J. R. Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Jim Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Robert Quaife, Lene Rauth, Ginny Rommel, Carl Schultz, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith, Anne and F. W. Stamm, Midge Susie, Scottie Theiss (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three-quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on Ky. 714). Habitat: elevation 640' to 1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, woodland and grassland. Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 57 to 65° F; wind S, 9-22 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10.5 (2.5 on foot, 7.5 by car). Total party-miles 151 (1 on foot, 150 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 1,827.

The absence of vultures was unusual. — John Brown and W. H. Brown (compiler).

FRANKFORT (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 38 to 55° F; wind W, 4-14 m.p.h. Water open, streams almost flooding. Eighteen observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 72 (40 on foot, 32 by car). Total party-miles 418 (40 on foot, 378 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 7,660.

The steady wind kept down the numbers of species, especially woodpeckers. This count tends to document the apparent continuing decline of American Kestrels and vultures. Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Mockingbirds and Carolina Wrens seem to have stabilized in numbers near former levels. We had a higher than usual count for Golden-crowned Kinglets. Our unusual finds, the immature Black-crowned Night Heron by Jim Rettig and the female Merlin by W. H. Brown, were observed at length at close range. — W. H. Brown, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Marc and Sherri Evans, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Howard Jones (compiler), Jeff Jones, Margaret LaFontaine, Lynne Mekus, Robert Morris, Marla Nunnally, Glenn Raleigh, Jim Rettig, Teresa Rollins, Jim Williams, Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 62 to 68° F; wind SW, 12-18 m.p.h. All water was open. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours 14 (9 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 135 (8 on foot, 127 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 2,437.

A good winter food crop accounted for the presence of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches, but the wind kept the numbers of woodpeckers and sparrows down. The best find was the Horned Grebe on Elmer Davis Lake despite boatloads of fishermen moving about.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were in good numbers and apparently Carolina Wrens have made a comeback in Owen County. Brad Andres spent one-half hour owling and called up the two E. Screech Owls. — Brad Andres, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Howard Jones (compiler), Sarah McClellan.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center east Hickman on Bates Creek Pike). Habitat: as described in 1972. Dec. 15; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 55 to 72° F; wind S, 3-5 m.p.h. Forty-five observers in eight parties. Total party-hours 64.5 (22 on foot, 42.5 by car). Total party-miles 370 (23 on foot, 347 by car). Total species 89; total individuals 37,321.

Best day we have ever had! Best weather we've ever had! There seemed to be plenty of food for the birds. — Brad Andres, Bill Barbour, Roger W. Barbour, Earl Boggs, Gary Boggs, Mike Boggs, Pat Boggs, Ann Bradley, Bonnie Bradley, Gene Bradley, Karen Cannon, Rose Cannon, Carol Chambers, Susan Chron, Manton Cornett, Ron Duncan, Lyda Feck, Jean Flynn, Mike Flynn, John Glickson, Overton Green, Virginia Hougham, Ruth Housie, Edna Huddle, Ray Huddle, Betty Maxon, Sarah McClellan, Robert Morris (compiler), Tom Rae, Glen Raleigh, Algie Reece, Jerry Reece, Phil Roca, Marie Sutton, Flow Tandy, Tony Tandy, Andy Utterhart, Marian Utterhart, Sally Wasielewski, Clara Weiland, Glen Wells, Jim Williams, Mike Williams, Tim Williams, Bernice Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse). Habitat: Residential 10%, Lakeside 10%, Woodland 19%, Farmland 45%, Streamside 15%, Parks 1%. Dec. 15; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 60 to 72° F; wind calm. Record high temperature. Twenty-nine observers in nine parties. Total party-hours 61 (25 on foot, 36 by car). Total party-miles 437 (25 on foot, 412 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 8,618. — Chauncey Alcock, Joe Amburgey, Ernie Baird, Harry and Molly Caldwell, Ken Dickey, Neil (compiler) and Scott Eklund, Mrs. Tom and Tobin Foster, John Gower, JoAnn and Mike Hamm, Morton Hoagland, Jack Kellam, J. W. Kemper, Dan MacDonald, Mike Marsh, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, John B. Nichols, Mary and Rob Pendency, Les Reid, Louise Robinson, Joe Russell, Joan V. G. Smith, Charles Vahlkamp, Gordon Winsor.

BURLINGTON (center and habitat as described in 1975). Dec. 29; 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast, cloudy; temp. 59 to 66° F; wind SE, 10-25 m.p.h. Fifteen observers in four parties. Total party-hours 29 (14 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 165 (8 on foot, 157 by car). Total species 42; total individuals 3,723.

Gusty winds made finding birds difficult. Waterfowl were in particularly low numbers, while the large number of American Robins was most unusual for this area. — Mike Andrews, Joanne Conradi, Stan Hirtle, Bill Jacoby, Carolyn Johnson, John Johnson, Ed Kennedy, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely, Brenda Ross, George Schoen, Carmen Schulte, Tommy Stephens, Carolyn VanHuss.

ROWAN COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Morehead). Habitat: mixed hardwood, lake shores, meadows, fields, Minor Clark Fish Hatchery and Cave Run Lake. Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 20 to 42° F; wind E, 0-3 m.p.h. Four observers in three parties. Total party-hours 10 (2 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-

miles 66 (2 on foot, 64 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 1,215.

Unusual early winter season — there were very few waterfowl on the lake, and a lower than usual number of winter residents and visitors. — Fred Busroe (compiler), Joanna Busroe, Margaret Heaslip, Al Surmont.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ronnyman. Habitat: woodland and woodland edge. Jan. 1; 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sky cloudy with rain; temp. 50 to 60° F; wind gusting to 20 m.p.h. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours 12 (10 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 30 (3 on foot, 27 by car). Total species 33; total individuals 297.

Gusty, rainy weather made for a poor day and seemed to keep woodpeckers and birds of prey inactive. — Dennis Sandlin, Wayne Sladek, Benjamin and Donnie R. Spencer (compiler).

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1984

ANNE L. STAMM

The fall season was very mild with the average temperature in October 6.2 degrees above normal. In Louisville on October 26 it was 17 degrees above normal for that date, according to the Weather Bureau. No frosts were apparent in central Kentucky until November 7. Rainfall during August and November was much above normal.

The warm weather seemed to retard southward migration. A number of species lingered well beyond normal departure dates and winter residents were late in arriving. There were no signs of an influx of northern species.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons were reported from October 24 to November 25 at Louisville, Taylorsville Lake, Lexington, Fishing Creek Recreational Area (hereafter FCRA) and Cave Run Lake with a high of 35 at the latter location (FB). Pied-billed Grebes were fairly widespread and peaked at Lake Pewee with 114 on October 29 (JH) and 49 at Lexington, September 26 (BA). Horned Grebes were scarce and reported in low numbers from October 24-November 30; 20 was the high at Louisville, November 5 (BPB) and "numerous" at Dale Hollow, November 25 (RS). Double-crested Cormorants were reported from Honker Lake, Jonathan Creek, Louisville, Lexington and Green River, with the earliest at Louisville on August 3 (LR) and the highest number there — 17 — on October 25 (BPB).

Hérons — Great Blue Herons were widespread and more numerous than usual: high counts included 63 in the shallows of Lake Barkley on November 16 (CP), and 50+ at Lake #9, Fulton County, August 27 (BPB, BN, S. Washburn). Smaller numbers were: 14-18 in the Lexington area, November 17-25 (MF), 15 at East Bend, October 28 (LMc), 13 at Mayfair Basins, November 16 (DN) and singles as late as November 30 and December 1 at Lentz's Pond and Prospect (S, JK, respectively). The Great Egret was reported all across the state from Fulton County to Bell County (m.ob.), with greatest concentrations of 500 at Lake #9 on August 27 and 350 on September 1 (BPB, BN, *et al.*); singles lingered at Burnside State Park until November 7 (JEl) and at Lexington, November 17 (MF). A Snowy Egret was present on the Falls of the Ohio (hereafter Falls) on

August 5 (JEL, JC) and apparently remained through September 11 (m. ob.); one at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA), eight at Lake #9, August 27 and three at the latter location on September 1 (BN, BPB, *et al.*). An immature Little Blue Heron arrived at the Falls on August 15 (BN) and remained until August 26; 53 at BWMA, 125 at Lake #9 on August 27 (BN, BPB, S. Washburn) and 125 at the latter location, September 1 (BPB, R. Cassell); one at Clark Hatchery, September 18-21 (FB). At least four nests of Cattle Egret were discovered on August 18 at Shippingport Island (SE, BPB); about 30 there each evening from September 5 until late September and 15-20 still present on October 11 (BPB); 50 flying over Lake #9, August 27 and 200 on September 1 (BPB, BN, *et al.*); singles noted at Clark Hatchery, October 3-7 (FB) at FCRA on October 21 (JEL) and below Kentucky Dam on November 29, a late date (CP). There was an increase in the number of Green-backed Herons with a high count of 30 at the Falls, August 5 (JEL, JC) and 26 at Clark Hatchery, September 4 (FB). A total of 196 Black-crowned Night Herons was the high for the period at McAlpine Dam, August 16 (LR); three lingered until October 27 at the Mouth of Bear Grass Creek (S, FS) and one there October 28 (JL). A single Yellow-crowned Night Heron at the Falls on August 8 was the only one reported (BN).

Waterfowl — Although 40 Snow Geese had reached BWMA by October 10 some 700 were there at the end of the month and the flock peaked at 4000 in late November (TY). The first migrating flock of 100 Canada Geese arrived at BWMA on September 15, and the flock increased to 2500 by October 10, some 7000 by the end of October and peaked at 12000 November 30 (TY). The duck migration was late and generally light. The mild fall offered little inducement for southern flight and when they came they passed through rather quickly, except in western Kentucky, where most of the winter ducks congregate. Only 30 migrating ducks had reached BWMA by October 10, 2500 on October 30 and 6500 by November 30 (TY). The duck populations at BWMA and the lower river bottoms were significantly smaller than in recent years, according to Tom Young, manager of BWMA. The duck migration was evident at Waitsboro and near Burnside State Park on November 2 when 1000+ were seen. The rafts included Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, some American Widgeon, Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks; all ducks were gone the following day (JEL). Highest numbers of Puddle ducks reported included 150 Black Ducks at Cave Hill Cemetery, November 30 (S, FS) and 103 at Lexington, November 22 (BA); 65 Green-winged Teal at Lexington Reservoir, November 9 (BA); 55 Blue-winged Teal at the Falls, September 22 (BN), 90 at Mayfair Basins, October 4 (BPB); a raft of 150 Gadwall and American Widgeon, September 24 at Six Mile Island (DN) and 100 Wood Ducks at Mayfair Basins, November 2 (BN). Gadwall were more numerous at Bowling Green than usual (WM). Ring-necked Ducks peaked at Lake Pewee on November 23 with 260 and 200 at Hematite Lake, November 26 and 29 (CP). Canvasbacks were scarce with only a high of 25 at Hematite Lake (CP); a drake in molt at the Falls from September 3 until October 21 was most unusual (BPB). A male Greater Scaup was seen at Lexington on October 29 and November 23 (BA). Some migratory movement of Lesser Scaups noted at Lexington, October 24 with 345 birds (BA), 300+ at Louisville, October 29 (JL) and 200+ at Jonathan Creek, October 30 (CP). An interesting flock of three species of scoters was present on the Ohio River at Cox's Park, October

24 (LR): four Black Scoters, nine Surf and one White-winged (BPB, LR). There were also two to three other Black Scoters present on the River (DN, BPB) and three Surf the following day (BPB, DN). A noteworthy record included two White-winged Scoters at Waitsboro Recreational Area, November 2 (JEL); four were also at Towhead Island, November 5 (JC). Although most ducks arrived later than usual; a single Common Goldeneye was early at Louisville, November 2 (DN). Flocks of 20 Hooded Mergansers at Lake Pewee and 25 at Lexington were seen in late November (JH, BA, respectively). Ruddy Ducks were fairly widespread with a high count of 75 at Lake Pewee' November 23 (JH).

Hawks — Except for a fairly good Broad-winged Hawk and Turkey Vulture movement, this fall's southward migration was not exciting. Black Vultures were recorded in above normal numbers at Clark Hatchery where 98 were seen on October 12 and averaged 27 birds on 10 visits. Eighty Turkey Vultures were observed over a farm in east Louisville, October 18 (BPB) and about 100 or more in the vicinity of Lentz's Pond, November 3 (BBC), at least 50 there the following day (S) and a maximum of 285 at Clark Hatchery, November 8 (FB). One to two Ospreys were reported from eight localities between September 6 and November 1 (m. ob.). Two Mississippi Kites were seen along the Mississippi River, Carlisle County and three at BWMA, August 27 (BPB, BN, S. Washburn) and one at Reelfoot Lake, Fulton County, September 8 (BN). Single Bald Eagles returned by late September to the Falls (LR, DN), Dale Hollow (CS) and Nolin Lake (KC); October and November arrivals were seen at BWMA (TY), Rough River (KC), Cumberland Lake (CS), Cumberland Gap (BA) and Cave Run Lake (FB), and there were eight (5 ad., 3 im.) at Dale Hollow, November 24 (RS) and 15 at BWMA, November 30 (TY). Single Northern Harriers were reported from Madisonville (JH), Owensboro (RI), Louisville (BN, BBC), Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (hereafter CKWMA — GR), Carter Caves State Park (LMc), Clark Hatchery (FB), and six at Cumberland Gap (BA). Single Sharpshinned Hawks were recorded at six locations (m. ob.), and while hawk watching at Cumberland Gap, four were seen on October 1 (S, DS, FS), 10 on September 23 and nine on October 14 (BA). Few Cooper's Hawks were reported, but seven were in migration over Cumberland Gap, October 1 (S, DS, FS). A fair movement of Broad-winged Hawks was noticed as several hundred passed over southwestern Jefferson County during the week of September 10 (DS); about 30 in Oldham County, September 16 (JC) and 40 on the same date at Cumberland Gap (RM); a count of 98 at the latter location, September 23 (BA) and 10 there October 1 (S, DS, FS). Rough-legged Hawks were scarce with only four sightings of single birds: Boone County (DN), north of Lexington (MF), west of Lexington (JK) and at Louisville (FS, S). Most encouraging were the reports of Peregrine Falcons in eastern Kentucky. The earliest Peregrine was sighted at Cumberland Gap, September 16 (RM), two adults there, September 23 (BA), one near Pine Mountain, September 30 (S, DS, FS) and one at Clark Hatchery, September 30, October 12 and 23 (FB). A Peregrine was also observed at the Falls, September 27 and 30 (BN, G. Adams, BPB, JL, LR).

Soras through Cranes — There were five reports of Sora Rails: three from Louisville (DN) and two at Clark Hatchery (FB) from September

8 to November 2 (DN). A Common Moorhen was present at Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County from October 14-29 (LMc). The American Coot migration was evident during October 23-30 and the highest count was 4500 at Lake Pewee (JH). The first autumn flight of 173 Sandhill Cranes passed over Valley Station, November 2 (BN), flocks of 100-150 flew over east Louisville, November 6 (BPB), 36 the following day (KC), 100 birds over Cave Hill Cemetery, November 13 (BPB) and 50 in a suburban area of Louisville, November 17 (CS); some smaller groups also passed through central Kentucky during the same period.

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration was not spectacular. There were no Piping Plovers, Willets, Upland Sandpipers, or American Woodcock reported and numbers were low for most species, with the exception of Pectoral, Dunlin and Stilt Sandpipers. Some species lingered well into November. One to five Black-bellied Plovers were at the Falls with the earliest on August 14 (LR) and the latest on November 11 (BPB); three were at Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, November 3 (JG) one at Chalk Bluff, August 27 (BPB, BN, S. Washburn); and six was the high at Clark Hatchery, October 31 (FB). Lesser Golden Plovers were present in numbers of one to three at Lake Pewee (JH), the Falls (m. ob.), FCRA (JEL) and Clark Hatchery (FB). Nine Avocets were spotted at Mayfair Basins on August 6 and singles there September 15 (DN) and at the Falls, October 25 (DN, LR, BPB). One to five Ruddy Turnstones were present at the Falls (BPB, DN, BN, BA), two at Dam #53 (BN, BPB) and two at Pulaski County Park (JEL). The birds at the latter location from August 29-September 4 are probably the first reported for that county. The Red Knot, a rare transient, was first observed on September 2 at the Falls (JEL, JC, BN), two were there the following day and one at Mayfair Basins (BPB). Few Sanderlings were reported: the earliest were two at the Falls August 25, six as the high on September 2 (BN) and one to two intermittently until September 19 (S, BPB); three along the Mississippi River, Carlisle County, one at Dam #53, August 27 (BPB, BN, *et al.*); one at Lake #9, September 1 (BPB, R. Cassell) and one on west shore of Lake Barkley, November 10 was late in departing (CP). Western Sandpipers were seen at Louisville, Lake #9, Paradise Steam Plant and Clark Hatchery, with the earliest on August 5 at the Falls and a high of 12 there on August 8 (BN) and 10 at Lake #9, August 27 (BPB, BN) and the latest on October 5 at Clark Hatchery (FB). White-rumped Sandpipers were present at the Frankfort Fish Hatchery (MF) and at the Falls, where they numbered 6-8 on October 27 (BPB, JL) and last recorded there October 30. One to three Baird's Sandpipers showed up at the Falls from August 18 (S, FS) to November 4 (BPB); several times at Lexington, October 24-31 (BA); one at Dam #53 (BN, BPB) and three as late as November 8 at Clark Hatchery (FB). Pectoral Sandpipers were widespread and in moderate numbers; a flock of 73 at the Falls, August 8 was the earliest (BN, S. Washburn) and latest at Jacobsen Park, Lexington, October 29 (BA). A single Dunlin arrived at FCRA on September 29 (JEL), but numbers were not present until late October: 50 at Clark Hatchery, October 23 (FB); 30 at Jonathan Creek, October 30 (CP); 50-65 at the Falls, October 27, but 112 there October 29 (BPB), smaller groups remained through mid-November, with the latest at Mayfair Basins, November 24 (JC). One to five Stilt Sandpipers were at Honker Lake, Lake Barkley, Mayfair Basins, the Falls, Frankfort Fish Hatchery, but 130 were at Lake #9 on September 1 (BPB,

R. Cassell) and 100 plus there September 2 (BM); and a few lingered at Honker Lake until the last week of November (CP). Interesting records of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper included 10 at the Falls, September 2 (BN, DN), six in Carlisle County, August 27 (BPB, BN, S. Washburn) and four at Mayfair Basins, September 4 (BN). A single Long-billed Dowitcher was seen and its call note heard at Lake #9, September 1 (BPB) and 2 (BM). A Wilson's Phalarope at Mayfair Basins on August 18 (BPB) and 19 (BN) and September 2 (JC) was the only one reported.

Gulls — A first-year Franklin's Gull was present at the Falls on November 1 (BPB, LR, JL). Bonaparte's Gulls were few: six at Kentucky Dam, November 25 (CP); two at the Falls, November 8-10 (BN) and 6 to 8 November 30 (S, FS). A first-year Thayer's Gull was seen at the Falls, November 8-11 (J. Caruso, BPB, BM, LR). The bird of the fall season was the immature Sabine's Gull discovered at the Falls and identified by Brad Andres, September 9 and later by B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. Details have been published.

Terns — One to five Caspian Terns visited the Falls, with the earliest on August 8 (BN) and the latest on November 2 (DN, BN, BPB); also one at FCRA on September 28 (JEL). One to three Common Terns were present at the Falls, Towhead Island, Lexington Reservoir, FCRA and Pulaski County Park (m. ob.) between August 9 and November 19. The latter is a late date of one bird at the Falls (BPB). There were eight Forster's Terns at the Falls on October 3 (DN) and one was seen as late as November 5-6 (BPB). The species was also present at Lexington Reservoir (BA) and FCRA (JEL). One to five Least Terns were seen in Hickman, Fulton, and Carlisle Counties on August 27 and September 1 (BPB, BN). An interesting record was that of 15 Black Terns at Pulaski County Park, August 22 (JEL).

Cuckoo through Woodpeckers — The only Black-billed Cuckoos reported were individuals at Madisonville, September 14 (JH) and at Westport, August 25 (S). A dead Northern Saw-whet Owl was picked up in the northern part of Land Between the Lakes on November 24 and appeared to be a "fresh kill;" it established the first record for this species in that area (CP). The migration of the Common Nighthawk was not impressive and only small groups passed over east Louisville with highs of 62 on August 18 (FS), 250 on August 25-26 (DN) and 50+ at Pulaski County Park, September 6 (JEL); latest date at Lexington, October 28 (BA). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were quite common in the Fort Knox area during September and last observed there on October 9 (JG); one at the Falls of the Rough, October 17 (KC) and a probable one in east Louisville, November 2 (MS). Red-headed Woodpeckers were in larger numbers at Lexington area from late August through mid-September (MF), while at Prospect the species was "totally absent" for the second year (JK).

Flycatchers through Creepers — Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at Red River Gorge, September 15 (BA) and at CKWMA, October 1 (GR). Sightings of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher included singles at two locations in Louisville, August 22 (DN) and 25, also two on September 16 (BPB) and one at Raven Rock, September 22 (BA). A Least Flycatcher call note was heard on August 17 and one singing on September 16 at Louisville (BPB). Purple Martins were definitely migrating on August 23 when

750-1000 were seen (DS) and 7500-10000 in late August and early September at the Falls (BPB). A Tree Swallow at Mayfair Basins on November 22 was unusually late (JK) and a flock of 156 American Crows there on November 2 (DN). Three Fish Crows were detected in Carlisle County, August 27 (BN *et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce everywhere. Brown Creepers were more numerous in the Fort Knox area than in recent years (JG).

Wrens through Shrikes — One to two Sedge Wrens and Marsh Wrens were reported at Louisville, October 18 (BPB, BN) and two of the latter species at Clark Hatchery, October 31 and November 26 (FB). There was an increase in the number of both species of kinglets over 1983 in Rowan County; highest counts were 28 Golden-crowned and 73 Ruby-crowned at Three Lick Branch, October 29 (FB). A small "wave" of Gray-cheeked Thrushes passed through Glasgow on October 5 (RS). Groups of 10-50 Water Pipits were present from September 30-November 23 at various places in the Lexington area, Shakertown (MF), Clark Hatchery (FB), Louisville (BPB), Burnside State Park and FCRA (JEL). Flocks of Cedar Waxwings were present from September 30-November 30; highest count was 200 at Clark Hatchery (FB). A Loggerhead Shrike at Winchester, November 24 was the only one reported (BA).

Vireos and Warblers — White-eyed Vireos were still present the last few days of October in Pulaski, Madison (GR) and Warren Counties (JC), while a Solitary at Lexington Cemetery on November 8 provided a late date (BA). The warbler migration was drawn out over a long period of time with no big waves noted. Only the most noteworthy records are mentioned below. A Golden-winged Warbler at Bullittsburg, September 25 was unusual there (LMc). A single Orange-crowned Warbler reported at Louisville, October 2 (BPB). A Magnolia Warbler at Eubank on October 28 was late (JEL). Cape May Warblers lingered rather late: one at Eubank, October 19 (JEL) and one at Carter Caves, October 20 (LMc). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers did not seem as common as usual at Lake Pewee (JH), but good numbers were at Clark Hatchery with a high of 200+ on October 25 (FB). A Blackburnian Warbler was present at Eubank on October 28 (JEL) and a Yellow-throated Warbler was there October 17 (JEL). A Northern Waterthrush at CKWMA on October 20 was a fairly late transient (GR). Two Connecticut Warblers were reported: one at Lexington, September 17 (RM) and one at Fort Knox area, October 14 (JG) was late. A Mourning Warbler was seen on October 8 at Louisville (DN).

Tanagers through Emberizines — A Summer Tanager at Louisville on November 3-4 was late (DN). A Blue Grosbeak at Eubank on October 10 was fairly late in departing (JEL). Indigo Buntings were "abundant" at CKWMA and last observed there on October 29 (GR). Tree Sparrows were scarce and only mentioned at CKWMA (GR). Savannah Sparrows at the Clark Hatchery were above those of the fall of 1983: 30 on September 22 and 15 on October 4 (FB); singles at CKWMA, November 2 (GR) and at Louisville, October 18 and November 21 (BPB). Four Henslow's Sparrows at Clark Hatchery on November 4 were late stragglers (FB) and a Grasshopper Sparrow was present at CKWMA, November 22 (GR). A LeConte's Sparrow was roped in a field at Louisville on October 28 (BPB, BN, JC, A. Barron). Single Lincoln Sparrows were recorded at CKWMA

on October 1, 12, 20 and four birds on November 2 (GR). White-throated Sparrows were not common until the last week of October at Madisonville (JH) and there were 293 at Tree Lick Branch, October 29 and 30 (FB). White-crowned Sparrows arrived later than normal and numbers were low at Fort Knox (JG), Louisville (S) and absent at Owensboro (RI). Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos were also late in arriving, with the exception of a single bird on September 26 at Louisville (S). A single Lapland Longspur was seen flying over a Louisville field on November 20 (BPB) and three Snow Buntings were at the Falls on November 28 (Brian Anderson, BPB).

Blackbirds, Finches — The largest flock of Rusty Blackbirds during the fall was 250 at Harrodsburg, November 21 (BA). Purple Finches were late in arriving and were very scarce, some observers had not seen any by the end of November. During the latter part of November 50-75 House Finches were present at CKWMA (GR) and 25-50 at Bowling Green feeders (WM) and smaller numbers at Murray (CP) and in the Louisville area (S). Pine Siskins were scarce. Good concentrations of American Goldfinches were in the Lexington area (MF) and at the Falls of the Rough (KC), but scarce at Valley Station (DS). Three Evening Grosbeaks at Prospect on October 17 were the only ones reported (FK).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), John Callahan (JC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Sherri Evans (SE), Michael Flynn (MF), Ed Groneman (EG), John Getgood (JG), J. W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), John Krull (JK), Frank X. Krull (FK), Julian Lewis (JL), Robert Morris (RM), Wayne Mason (WM), Burt L. Monroe (BM), Lee McNeely (LMc), Doxie Noonan (DN), Barry Nichols (BN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Carl Schultz (CS), Russell Starr (RS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Midge Susie (MS), Scottie Theiss (ST), Tom Young (TY), Beckham Bird Club (BBC). — 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

FIELD NOTE

EARED GREBE IN WARREN COUNTY

The Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) is considered to be a casual vagrant in Kentucky (Barbour et al., Kentucky Birds: A Finding Guide, 1973). Previous state records were reported during the winter months from along the Ohio River (Mengel, The Birds of Kentucky, A.O.U. Monograph 3, 1965), and from Kentucky Lake in 1978 (Stamm, Ky. Warbler 58: 43, 1978). In May 1984, two individuals of this species were observed on McElroy Lake in Warren County. The purpose of this note is to document these sightings from southcentral Kentucky.

A single individual of this species was first observed on May 10 by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., who phoned to alert me of the bird's presence. Later that evening, I drove to McElroy Lake and confirmed his identification. The bird was in full breeding plumage and the available light was such that most distinguishing characteristics could be noted. It contrasted sharply with the Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) which were

also present, in that it was a darker, more slender bird with a black head and neck, and a slender, pointed bill. A black crest and a bright yellowish-brown ear tuft were clearly visible whenever the bird presented itself in side view. Although Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) were not present, the black neck of this bird, coupled with the fact that the yellow-brown ear markings extended well below the eye line, prevented the possibility of confusing the two species.

Following this initial sighting, the lake was checked daily from May 11-19. On May 12, a second Eared Grebe, also in breeding plumage, had appeared. From May 12 through May 14, both individuals were observed during mid-afternoon and early evening visits. By the afternoon of May 15 only one individual remained and it was present in the area until the morning of May 18. Frequent visits to the lake, and checks at surrounding bodies of water after this date failed to relocate the species.

These sightings represent the first for this region of Kentucky. Reasons for the occurrence of these individuals in this area are unknown. — WAYNE M. MASON, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

VULTURE VIEWERS

Please be on the lookout for Turkey Vultures with dark green wing tags. A number of adults and nestlings have been marked in Wisconsin as part of a study of breeding biology, mortality and migration. Tags are encoded with a small "u" and large white numerals, 1-99. If a marked vulture is sighted, please report the date, exact location, tag number, whether tag is on the right or left wing, name and address of observer and other pertinent observations to Madison Audubon Society, Rt. 1, Box 128A, Arlington, WI 53911 (phone 608-635-4160).

ACTIVE MEMBER DEPARTS

Pierre Allaire has accepted an appointment with the University of Florida at Gainesville and must depart from Kentucky by March 15. Because he and Lori will be unable to attend the spring meeting, this note is to wish all their friends in the organization well. Thanks are extended to Pierre for his many contributions to K.O.S. The K.O.S. wishes them well on their new venture. Their new address will be McCarty Hall, U.F. 32611.

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

Our spring meeting will take place at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 19, 20 and 21. Reservations at the park should be made at your earliest convenience. Camping is also available. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to enjoy good birding and the company of those who share a common interest. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairman, Fred Busroe, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Morehead State University, Morehead 40351.

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The Kentucky Warbler

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OUR COVER

Our thanks go to Ray Harm, our gifted staff artist, for this painting of Cardinals.

AVIAN SPECIES ATTRACTED TO AND UTILIZING THE MINOR E. CLARK FISH HATCHERY

FRED M. BUSROE

ABSTRACT — A study was conducted at Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, Kentucky to investigate the avian species attracted to and utilizing the habitat created by the development of the hatchery. The study was conducted from September 1982 to December 1983. A total of 162 species was recorded. The habitat created by the construction of Clark Hatchery has increased the occurrence of waterfowl and shorebird species in this area of Kentucky.

INTRODUCTION — "Eastern Kentucky has been ignored to a considerable degree and knowledge regarding its fauna is limited" (Barbour 1951). Pierre Allaire (1974) found this statement applicable in 1974. This comment is still true (Stamm 1981, per. commun.; Shadowen 1982). Mengel's publication (1965), Monroe's summary (1969) and Barbour's, et al. finding guide (1972) contain helpful information about Kentucky's avifauna. However, a number of major environmental changes have occurred in eastern Kentucky since 1950 and information regarding the avifauna needs to be updated. The impoundment of large lakes, surface mine reclamation efforts (Allaire 1974, 1978, 1981) and the employment of different agriculture and forestry techniques (McComb and Moriarty 1981) have altered eastern Kentucky's habitats and avian populations. One such alteration of habitat in eastern Kentucky is the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery.

Similar in some aspects to the transient lakes which have long been recognized as unique birding areas near Bowling Green (Wilson 1951, 1968; Shadowen 1972), the ponds at Clark Hatchery serve as temporary stopping points for migrating birds. The purpose of this study was to observe and report on avian species attracted to and utilizing the habitat created by the development of the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery.

STUDY AREA — Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery is located eight miles (12.8 km) southwest of Morehead, Rowan County, Kentucky. The study area is on the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau. The hatchery is in the Cumberland Upland avifaunal region of Kentucky (Mengel 1965), which comprises most of the Cumberland Plateau. This region is marked by the richest forest avifauna in Kentucky, both in total number of species and numbers of individuals of common species (Mengel 1965). The study area is sufficiently close to the Limestone Plateau avifaunal region for it to be ecotonal in the nature of its avifauna.

Clark Hatchery is one of the largest state-owned warm-water hatcheries in the United States. Construction was completed in 1972. The average elevation of the study area is approximately 680 feet (207 m) mean sea level. The hatchery covers 300 acres (121.4 ha) and contains 111 rearing and brood ponds. It has 122.5 acres (49.6 ha) of water that includes eighty-two 1.0 acre (0.4 ha) ponds, twenty-five 0.1 acre (0.04 ha) ponds and 38 acres (15.37 ha) of water in four large brood ponds, one of which is an oxbow lake. The remaining 189 acres (76.5 ha) consists of roadways, mixed forest stands, planted fields (corn), grassy-marsh areas and an office-residential area. Clark Hatchery is located 275 yards (250 m) west of Cave Run Lake and is bounded on the southern and western sides by the Licking River.

The hatchery is a state designated wildlife sanctuary and thus access by humans is restricted. This feature, along with the habitat created by the ponds, marsh areas, fields and the close proximity to Cave Run Lake and the Licking River serve as a special attraction to birds.

METHODS — Methods involving the use of transect routes to identify birds from visual and audible cues employed in this study were modified from the methods of Emlen (1971, 1977). The transect route width varied with the season (Robbins 1972) and the habitat (Reynolds et al. 1980). The transect route was chosen to achieve maximum coverage of the different habitats of the study area.

The survey route was covered in a motor vehicle with periodic stops made to observe and record species and numbers of birds seen. On eighteen visits it was necessary to cover the interior of the oxbow lake on foot because road conditions were poor as a result of the weather.

The study area was visited a total of 66 times from 8 September 1982 to 2 December 1983. Sixty-one surveys were made between 7:00 a.m. and noon and five surveys were conducted between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Visual observations were made using binoculars (8.5 x 44) and a spotting scope (15x - 60x). The species and the number of individuals identified visually or audibly on each trip were recorded on a transect route map.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION — A total of 162 species was encountered during the study. The maximum number of species observed on a single survey was 66 species on 17 May 1983 and the greatest number of individuals was 1376 observed on 19 October 1983. The data concerning the aquatic species from the study are presented in Table 1. Species are named and listed in accordance with their order in the new A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (A.O.U. 1983).

Sixteen species recorded on a single occasion and represented by sightings of only one bird are not included in Table 1. These species are: Horned Grebe, Great Egret, Wood Stork, Redhead, Common Merganser, Ruddy Turnstone, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope and Forster's Tern. Woodland species are not included either.

A total of 36 species are known to nest within the hatchery. Nests were located for each of the nesting species. An additional 16 species are suspected of nesting within or at least nearby the study area. Juvenile birds or adults carrying food were used as evidence for the suspected breeding species. Data for breeding status of the aquatic species are also presented in Table 1.

The Kentucky Ornithological Society lists 17 orders of birds on its Check-list of Kentucky Birds. Sixteen of these orders were observed at Clark Hatchery. The only order not observed was the order Pelecaniformes. A representative of this order, the Double-crested Cormorant, has been observed several times on Cave Run Lake.

Fourteen species were observed that Mengel lists as unrecorded on the Cumberland Plateau (Mengel 1965). These unrecorded species are: Horned Grebe, Wood Stork, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Canvasback, Redhead, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson's Phalarope and Least Tern. All of the preceding species are waterfowl or shorebirds that use the hatchery during migration. Mengel (1965) indicated that there were very few Cumberland Plateau records for the following species: Semipalmated Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Tree Swal-

TABLE 1 — Aquatic avian species observed at Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery between September 1982 and December 1983.

| Species | Season Sighted | Total No. Sightings | Total No. Individuals | Average per Sighting | Breeding Status | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | | | | | known | suspected |
| COMMON LOON | F | 4 | 4 | 1.0 | | |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | Sp, F | 33 | 100 | 3.0 | | |
| AMERICAN BITTERN | F | 3 | 3 | 1.0 | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | Y | 59 | 339 | 5.7 | | |
| LITTLE BLUE HERON | F | 7 | 15 | 2.1 | | |
| CATTLE EGRET | Sp, F | 5 | 6 | 1.2 | | |
| GREEN-BACKED HERON | Su | 28 | 553 | 19.8 | | x |
| BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON | F | 7 | 9 | 1.3 | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | Sp, F, W | 8 | 45 | 5.6 | | |
| WOOD DUCK | Sp, Su, F | 31 | 153 | 4.9 | x | |
| GREEN-WINGED TEAL | F | 3 | 3 | 1.0 | | |
| BLACK DUCK | Sp, F, W | 5 | 16 | 3.2 | | |
| MALLARD | Y | 42 | 194 | 4.6 | x | |
| BLUE-WINGED TEAL | Sp, F | 25 | 241 | 9.6 | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | Sp, F | 5 | 17 | 3.4 | | |
| GADWALL | W | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | | |
| CANVASBACK | Sp | 3 | 6 | 2.0 | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | Sp, F | 16 | 61 | 3.8 | | |
| GREATER SCAUP | Sp | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | | |
| LESSER SCAUP | Sp, F, W | 18 | 21 | 1.2 | | |
| OLDSQUAW | W | 10 | 14 | 1.4 | | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | Sp | 2 | 6 | 3.0 | | |
| BUFFLEHEAD | Sp, F, W | 23 | 131 | 5.7 | | |
| HOODED MERGANSER | Sp, F, W | 23 | 203 | 8.8 | | |
| RED-BREASTED MERGANSER | Sp | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | | |
| RUDDY DUCK | Sp, F | 2 | 3 | 1.5 | | |
| OSPREY | Sp, Su, F | 29 | 30 | 1.0 | | |
| BALD EAGLE | Sp, F, W | 7 | 11 | 1.5 | | |
| AMERICAN COOT | Sp, F, W | 22 | 187 | 8.5 | | |
| BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER | F | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | | |
| LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER | F | 4 | 4 | 1.0 | | |
| SEMPALMATED PLOVER | F | 7 | 24 | 3.4 | | |
| KILLDEER | Y | 63 | 2094 | 33.2 | x | |
| GREATER YELLOWLEGS | Sp, F | 9 | 29 | 3.2 | | |
| LESSER YELLOWLEGS | Sp, F | 18 | 88 | 4.9 | | |
| SOLITARY SANDPIPER | Sp | 3 | 7 | 2.3 | | |
| SPOTTED SANDPIPER | Sp, F | 21 | 77 | 3.7 | | |
| SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER | F | 17 | 247 | 14.5 | | |
| WESTERN SANDPIPER | F | 2 | 11 | 5.5 | | |
| LEAST SANDPIPER | F | 31 | 239 | 7.7 | | |
| WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER | F | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | | |
| PECTORAL SANDPIPER | F | 28 | 213 | 7.6 | | |
| DUNLIN | F | 15 | 105 | 7.1 | | |
| STILT SANDPIPER | F | 3 | 7 | 2.3 | | |
| COMMON SNIE | F | 3 | 13 | 4.3 | | |
| BONAPARTE'S GULL | Sp, F | 3 | 6 | 2.0 | | |
| RING-BILLED GULL | Sp, F | 20 | 145 | 7.3 | | |
| HERRING GULL | Sp | 1 | 3 | 3.0 | | |
| COMMON TERN | F | 4 | 4 | 1.0 | | |
| LEAST TERN | F | 2 | 7 | 3.5 | | |
| BELTED KINGFISHER | Y | 62 | 217 | 3.5 | x | |

Sp — Spring

F — Fall

Y — Permanent Resident

Su — Summer

W — Winter

low and Marsh Wren. All of these species were observed during the study period. A Northern Pintail was observed at the hatchery prior to the study period and two additional species, American Wigeon and Brewer's Blackbird, have been recorded since the study was concluded in December 1983. A comparison of these records with the occurrence records for Kentucky developed by Monroe (1969) indicated that my observations were within the range of dates previously recorded.

The species observed at Clark Hatchery are similar to those recorded at the transient lakes near Bowling Green (Wilson 1951, 1968; Shadowen 1972). Clark Hatchery may soon serve as an attraction equal to the transient lakes.

Current management practices of draining the ponds in the fall enhances the attractiveness for shorebirds. The oxbow and small ponds that remain filled throughout the year attract waterfowl. During the winter months the Bald Eagle is often seen on snags over the Licking River that forms the southern boundary of the hatchery. This area of the river receives tailwaters of Cave Run Lake and remains ice free during severe weather, whereas Cave Run Lake often freezes. The planted fields and tree stands provide an excellent source of food and shelter for the passerines.

The initial conclusion that can be formed is that since construction of Clark Hatchery and Cave Run Lake the occurrence of waterfowl and shorebirds in this area of Kentucky has increased in both the number of species and the number of individual birds. The hatchery serves as a special attraction for migrating birds.

The results of this study should serve as a starting point for continued observation and documentation of the changing avian populations of the Cave Run area and eastern Kentucky. It will be necessary to continue the study for several years to fully document the transitional period.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS—I thank Morehead State University for supporting funds provided through the Faculty Research Committee and my Department Chairman, Dr. Jerry F. Howell, Jr., for his support and understanding. I am indebted to Mr. Dan Brewer, Manager of Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, for allowing me free access to the hatchery. I also acknowledge Michael Hearn, Lewis Kornman, Albert Surmont, as well as the hatchery staff for their assistance and observations.

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THE WINTER SEASON, 1984-85

ANNE L. STAMM

Warm weather for the fall period continued into early winter with temperatures ranging from 61 to 69 degrees for the highs on eight days and 73 degrees on two days during December. January, on the other hand, was cold and snow fell in many parts of the state on January 5 with six inches at Paducah, eight inches at Mayfield, and two to three inches at Madisonville, Henderson and Louisville. Temperatures dropped to 16 to 20 degrees *below* zero on January 19-21. Heavy snow fell in much of the state, particularly in central and eastern Kentucky on February 12. High winds caused drifts of four to five feet in the areas of Versailles, Lexington and Mt. Sterling. Large ice flows were common on the Ohio River and Barren River Lake was frozen during the severest period.

Tree and shrub damage was extensive, but there were few reports of bird mortality. Since the snow was on the ground for a long period of time, birds had a difficult time finding natural foods and feeding stations were hosts to such species as Bobwhite, Tree and Fox Sparrows and Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds. Few northern finches had arrived by late December. A few Pine Siskins began showing up at feeders in mid-January when temperatures dropped below zero.

The unusually warm weather in December apparently caused many species to remain beyond their normal departure dates. Unusual birds also added to the interest of the winter season. The list included a Laughing Gull at Barkley Dam; Glaucous Gulls at Falls of the Ohio, Barkley and Kentucky Dams; Thayers Gulls from the same areas; a Great Black-backed Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake at Kentucky Dam and Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Louisville and in Lexington.

Loons through Herons — There were few reports of Common Loons in December, but an interesting record was that of 90 birds on the Lexington Reservoir on December 19 (BA); a few lingered into January, six at Cave

Run Lake, January 4 (FB); two near Green River, Taylor County, January 13 (JEL). Seventy-nine Pied-billed Grebes at Lake Pewee on December 10 was the largest number reported (JH); singles were still present at Louisville and Lexington on January 15 and 19, respectively (LR, and BA). The only mid-winter record of Horned Grebes was a single bird at Louisville on February 15 (LR). Probably late transients were three Double-crested Cormorants at the Falls of the Ohio in early December where one remained until mid-December (BPP); also a single bird was present at Lake Barkley, February 17 (BPP *et al.*). There was an unusually large number of Great Blue Herons present during December. The species appeared on 12 CBCs, with highs of 29 birds at Lexington and Glasgow, 28 at the Land Between the Lakes, 23 at Ballard County and 21 on the Louisville CBCs. They survived the sub-zero weather in the Inner Blue Grass Region and remained throughout the period at the Lexington Reservoir, lowest numbers there on January 19 and February 17 (BA). A single Great Egret was reported on the Lexington CBC, December 19 (BA). A few Cattle Egrets were late stragglers: one near Richmond on December 8 (*vide* GR) and two on a Murray farm (J. Erwin *vide* CP).

Waterfowl—An immature Tundra Swan was seen at Three Springs, Warren County, January 19, but was gone the following day (WM and H. Shadowen); two were sighted on the Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on January 17 (TY). Snow Geese numbered 4000 at BWMA in early December, but on January 7 the population had built up to 8000 birds. The census there at the end of February numbered 2000 birds (TY). Northward moving Snow Geese included ten or eleven in a cornfield at Three Lick Branch, Rowan County on February 22. They were with a flock of Canada Geese (FB). The latter species was reported at 11 locations. Largest concentrations were in western Kentucky with 22,000 at BWMA at the end of December, but on January 7 some 35,000 birds were there. The waterfowl season closed on January 22 with 75,000 Canada Geese at BWMA, but the population peaked at 130,000 on February 11 (TY). At the end of the reporting season (February 28) the majority had moved northward as only 5000 remained (TY). Canada Geese peaked at 1500 at Danville (FL) and at Green River State Park with 500 birds (JEL). The duck population throughout the winter was rather low in the Louisville area and at BWMA it "was far below the past few years" (TY). Surveys at BWMA showed only 6500 at the beginning of December, but the flock built up to 20,000 by January 7 and only 1000 there on January 22 (TY). Spring migrant Green-winged Teal began arriving in mid-February at Lexington (BA) and at Danville (FL). The largest Black Duck concentration at Louisville was 250 to 300 at the lake in Cave Hill Cemetery, February 16 (S, FS). The Mallard high count at Louisville was 1100 on February 9 at Mayfair Basins (JC). A few Pintails and Gadwalls remained throughout the winter at Danville (FL) and the latter species at Lexington (BA). American Wigeon began appearing at Danville on February 9 (FL) and at Lexington on February 16 (BA). Canvasbacks were reported in low numbers. A flock of 56 Redheads was seen at Warsaw, February 24 (LR) and a flock of 1000 at Lake Barkley on February 27 (V. Anderson, J. Sole, BPP). A flock of 66 Greater Scaup at Towhead Island on February 23 was extraordinary (LR). Three Surf Scoters were near McAlpine Dam on December 20 (BPP, J. Lewis) and a single White-winged Sooter at Smithland Dam on December 1 (m.ob.) and 30 (LR). Common Goldeneyes were reported from five locations (m.ob.): Danville,

Lexington, Louisville, Madisonville and Kentucky - Barkley Lakes area, with the largest concentration of 550 on the west side of Kentucky Lake in mid- February (BPB). Interesting were the 28 Hooded Mergansers on the Lexington Reservoir on January 16 (BA). There were 117 Common Mergansers on the Land Between the Lakes CBC December 14 (CP) and 600 at Silo Overlook, February 10 (BPB, R. Cassell). A total of 226 Red-breasted Mergansers in two flocks was recorded at Lexington, December 19 (BA) and 120 on the Ohio River near Shippingport Island on December 20 (LR, BPB). Ruddy Ducks were present throughout December at Lake Pewee with a high of 33 on December 10 and 31 present on January 14 (JH).

Diurnal Raptors — Black and Turkey Vultures were present in large numbers in the vicinity of Kentucky River Bluffs (MF), also Turkey Vultures were more common than usual in January and early February at Danville (FL). The January Bald Eagle survey totaled 143 which was below that of the 1984 survey (JD, S). Bald Eagle sightings in February included 13 from Uniontown to Golconda (M. Morton), 25 at Land Between the Lakes (Ed Ray), eight at Green River (JEl), two south of West Point (*fide* DS), one at Cave Run Lake and three at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB). Single Northern Harriers were reported in Breckenridge, Daviess, Jefferson and Trimble Counties; also reported at nine locations on the CBCs. Sharp-shinned Hawks, other than those on the CBCs, included singles in Shelby County on December 16 and February 9 (WB), at Wax on January 6 (KC), a few in the Inner Blue Grass area during the period (MF) and one captured a male Northern Cardinal at Prospect, December 5 (FK). Cooper's Hawks were reported in yards, or near feeders, at three locations during December: Louisville, Prospect and Shelbyville; five were recorded on the eagle survey in January; February sightings included two in Grayson County (KC), one in Jefferson County (KC) and one in Shelby County (WB). An immature Goshawk was reported near Taylorsville Lake on December 1 (WB). Red-shouldered Hawks continued to be in low numbers. Red-tailed Hawks appeared to be "noticeably down" this year in the Danville area (FL); the CBCs showed some decrease over last year, too. On the eagle survey a total of 57 Red-tailed Hawks was seen; fourteen were at Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (hereafter CKWMA) for about a week after the mid-February heavy snow (GR). A Golden Eagle was reported at Land Between the Lakes on the eagle survey in January (*fide* JD) and an immature was sighted at BWMA on January 23 and February 14 (T. Siemsen *et al.* *fide* BPB). Small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were present during December and February; very few at Danville (FL). There were mixed reports on the American Kestrel; declines noted again at Frankfort (H. Jones), but numbers were good at Owensboro (RI) and the total number reported on the eagle survey showed 23 more than on last year's survey.

Turkeys through Shorebirds — Winter Wild Turkey reports included 17 along Green River near Mammoth Cave on December 16 (M. Gillenwater *fide* WM), 16 in Ballard County, February 14 (B. Anderson *fide* BPB) and 10 in Trigg County on December 1 (BPB *et al.*). Four Northern Bobwhite came to a Louisville feeder during the snowy weather in February (KC). The species showed some decrease on the CBCs over 1984, but was thought to have survived the winter fairly well at Owensboro (RI). A covey of eight was flushed at Shippingport Island on December 16 (FS,

S) where it had not been found on previous CBCs. The American Coot wintered at the Lexington Reservoir and 57 noted there on January 16 (BA) and at Lake Pewee a high count of 597 was recorded on December 31 and 96 still there on January 14 and 10 on February 27 (JH). Good flocks of Sandhill Cranes flew over Louisville on their southward migration on December 3 — 200 observed by F. W. Stamm and 225 and 150 by Doxie Noonan; two were late stragglers over Doe Valley, Meade County on January 5 (BPB). A few shorebirds lingered beyond normal departure dates: a Greater Yellowlegs, a Least Sandpiper and four Dunlin at Land Between the Lakes, December 1 (DN); three Dunlin still present at Jonathan Creek on December 14 (*fide* CP). The "peenting" notes and courtship flights of six American Woodcock in Ballard County on December 29 were unusually early with this performance (BPB, KC); more normal courtship flights included one at the outskirts of Murray, February 18 (CP), five at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC), two in Oldham County (JC) and one in Kenton County (EG) all on February 25.

Gulls — Two Laughing Gulls at Barkley Dam on December 30 were unexpected (BPB, DN, LR). Bonaparte's Gulls were scarce in the fall, but fair numbers were present on January 4 in many areas: 56 at Falls of the Ohio (LR), flocks of 140 and 165 along the Ohio River at Louisville (J. Lewis, BPB), three at the Game Farm Lake in Frankfort and probably a new record for the area (WB) and 35 or more at the Lexington Reservoir (BA). Winter resident Gulls were late in arriving, at least in numbers. Ring-billed Gulls were widespread: about 1000 at Kentucky - Barkley Dams on December 1 (DN) and an estimated several thousand at the tri-dam area the latter part of December (BPB); some 4000 at Green River Lake on January 13 (JEL); about 80 at the Falls of the Ohio on February 7 (DN, LR); smaller numbers elsewhere. An estimated 5000 Herring Gulls were present in mid-February at the Kentucky - Barkley and Smithland Dams (BPB) where only 500 had been present at Kentucky and Barkley Dam on December 1 (DN); a high of 75 at Falls of the Ohio in early February (BPB) and one to two at Lexington Reservoir in December (BA, MF). A single Thayer's Gull was seen and documented at Barkley Lake, December 28 (DN) and again on December 30 with other observers; nine including two adults, five first-year, one second-year and a third-year bird at Kentucky - Barkley Dams on February 10 and an adult and a couple of first-year birds on February 17 and one at Falls of the Ohio on January 21 (BPB - *et al.* - no details). A few Glaucous Gulls showed up: one at Falls of the Ohio, February 7 (documented - LR, DN); one each at Barkley and Kentucky Dams in mid-January (M. Bierly); one at Kentucky Dam, February 16 (M. Miller, CP); four at Kentucky Dam and one at Barkley, February 10 (BPB, R. Cassell) and at least three at the former location on February 17 (CP, BPB). A single Great Black-backed Gull was seen at Kentucky Dan on February 10 and 17 (Photo — BPB, R. Cassell *et al.*) and a Black-legged Kittiwake there on December 1-2 was unexpected (BPB).

*Owls through Phoebe*s — Twenty-six Screech Owls were recorded on the Lexington CBCs and seven were on the Otter Creek CBC, making highs for both counts. Seven Short-eared Owls were reported from four locations: one near Finchville (WB), one at Wise Landing (JY) two in Mercer County (BPB) and three in Fayette County (BA). Red-headed Woodpeckers were present in greater numbers than usual and appeared on all

but four of the 22 CBCs, with a high of 357 on the Ballard County CBC. An Eastern Phoebe on February 23 at Indian Fort Mountain near Berea was probably an early migrant (GR).

Horned Larks through Kinglets — Horned Larks were scarce in the Louisville area in December, but numbers increased by mid-January when 225 were seen on Surrey Hill Farm (BPB); 200 to 300 were also seen in farming areas outside Owensboro (RI). No American Crow roosts were reported, but flocks of 200 were seen at Covington (EG) and 500-1000 on the outskirts of Louisville (DN); and they were scarce again at Danville (FL). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce. Carolina Wrens were in fair numbers in late December all across the state, but in some areas numbers dwindled after the severe weather of January and mid-February. A Marsh Wren was seen on the Ballard CBC on December 29 (KC — documented). Golden-crowned Kinglets were present in good numbers at Lexington in December, but few after the severe weather in mid-February (MF). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were scarce this season; one fed at a Prospect feeder during the cold weather of January 10, 18 and 20 (FK).

Thrushes and Warblers — Eastern Bluebirds were in normal numbers in Rowan County (FB) and above normal numbers in much of the state in late December. Two dead bluebirds were found in a nest box in Grayson County in mid-February; so, time will tell what mortality took place during the sub-zero weather. Among the thrushes the Mountain Bluebird had to be the rarity! A single bird was found on the December 22 Otter Creek Park CBC (BPB, R. Cassell, D. Ebell) and later observed by many. Two Mountain Bluebirds (male and female) were seen on December 26 (KC, FS, S) — both birds observed at the same time. The male was last seen on January 13 (BPB). American Robins were present in good numbers all across the state, much above last year's population. Several Brown Thrashers were found at feeding stations during January and February. A flock of 35 Water Pipits was seen in the Danville area during the third week of December and one bird flying over Barkley Dam, February 17 were the only ones reported. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were practically absent in the Owensboro area (RI), none listed on the Madisonville, Sorgho, Yelvington and Marion CBCs, but fair numbers at Otter Creek Park area, Mammoth Cave National Park and Bernheim Forest.

Sparrows, Blackbirds and Finches — Many Observers commented on Tree Sparrows coming to feeding stations during the snowy weather of January and February; a small flock of 35 remained from early January to late February at CKWMA (GR). The only Savannah Sparrow reported after December was a single bird at CKWMA on January 6 (GR). Three late-lingering Grasshopper Sparrows were found on the Otter Creek Park CBC (BPB *et al.*) and at least one still there the following day (BPB, JEL). Fox Sparrows were common at feeders during January and February at Madisonville (JH), Bedford (JY), Big Pond Sanctuary (KC), Louisville (KC, S, FS), Valley Station (DS), Prospect (FK), Danville (FL), Eu-bank (JEL), Lexington (BA) and various feeders at Morehead (FB). White-crowned Sparrows were low in numbers at Owensboro and Louisville (RI and S). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were from the Louisville area: two to three in January (BPB) and one at the Standiford Field airport area in February (KC). Large flocks of Blackbirds were seen in the Louisville area: thousands at Lentz's Pond (BBC), 5000-6000 in

the writer's yard on December 8—mostly Common Grackles. A large blackbird roost was discovered in the St. Matthews area and in January it was estimated to contain 200,000-500,000 birds (BM). Several Yellow-headed Blackbirds (both male and female) were seen at feeders during January and February and apparently were associated with this roost. The birds visited the feeders of Jane Bell and Dr. William Peak and an immature was seen on the Palmer-Ball farm. Also, a female was seen on the south end of Lexington in late February by Dr. A. Uterhart (*fide* MF). Purple Finches were scarce in the early part of the period, but numbers increased slightly after the middle of January and in February. The largest concentration of House Finches occurred at Eubank with a high of 175+ (JEL). Pine Siskins were scarce in most areas and some observers reported none. During mid-February American Goldfinches were unusually common at sunflower and thistle feeders with counts of 20-30 at Fern Creek and Louisville (S), 44 at Madisonville (JH), 50 at Valley Station (DS), 50 plus at Danville (FL), and 150 at Falls of Rough (KC), but seldom observed in the field. Evening Grosbeaks were practically non-existent in the state: one at Shelbyville on February 18 (WB); one bird at a feeder in Morehead, February 12 (FB) and a few in the Inner Blue Grass area (no date given—MF).

Correction—Because of an observers error in reporting, the date of the Black Tern at Oldham County Park in the August 1984 issue of *The Kentucky Warbler*, page 44 was incorrect. The correct date is May 7.

Contributors—Brad Andres (BA), John Callahan (JC), Jane and Pat Bell (JB), (PB), W. H. Brown (WB), Jim Durell (JD), Jackie Elmore, Sr. (JEL), M. B. Flynn (MF), Ed Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Frank X. Krull (FK), Fred Loetscher (FL), Wayne Mason (WM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), William Peak (WP), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Gary Richison (GR), Russell Starr (RS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Margaret Sullivan (MS), John Young (JY), and Tom Young (TY).

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring Meeting — April 19-21, 1985

The 62nd annual spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 19-21, 1985.

The Friday evening session was called to order by the president, Blaine Ferrell. He introduced vice-president Fred Busroe, who then presented the speakers for the evening. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. presented an interesting slide program on the Kentucky Nongame Wildlife Natural Areas Fund and its many uses in the state. Sherri Evans provided an update on the progress of the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas project. This was followed by an open discussion of Kentucky's early nesting species and nesting behavior led by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Field trips and leaders for Saturday morning were announced. The meeting was followed by a social hour.

Saturday morning field trips left the park lodge at 8:00 a.m. Wayne Mason led one trip to the River Styx area, and Blaine Ferrell led another group to Turnhole Bend, Houchen's Ferry, and First Creek Lake. The weather was sunny and unseasonably warm, with a good representation of summer resident birds present. An afternoon program was available for members with slides and tapes of various warblers.

The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. at the Park Community Center.

The evening meeting began in the Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Blaine Ferrell presented recommendations from the Board of Directors to raise the dues for contributing members to \$10.00; and to create a new corporate membership category. Both recommendations would be voted on at the fall meeting. The possibility of increasing membership through the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas was briefly discussed.

It was announced that the 1986 spring meeting would be held April 26-28 at either Otter Creek Park or the Falls of the Rough, and the 1986 fall meeting would be at either Kenlake State Park or Kentucky Dam Village State Park, with the date to be confirmed later.

Herb Shadowen, Jim Williams, and Ed Wilson were presented and accepted as the Nominating Committee for the coming year.

Plans for Sunday morning field trips were announced.

The evening was highlighted by an outstanding presentation by Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver on the natural history of Australia. Using film and slides, they provided an excellent account of the birds and other wildlife seen during their recent trip to this fascinating continent.

Blaine Ferrell led in compiling the day's bird list, with a total of 96 species seen on Saturday. Additional birds seen Sunday brought the weekend total to 100 species.

Total registrations for the spring meeting were 60.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1985

Bird species observed in or within a five-mile radius of Mammoth Cave National Park: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, immature Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling,

White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler. Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow; total species = 100. A Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird were observed outside the count area but during the weekend.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1985

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine and Priscilla Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guthrie, Jeff Jones, Mike and Diane Jones, William B. and Ruth Mathes, Wayne Mason, Herbert E. and Jackie Shadowen.

BURKHORN: Mrs. Eileen Sandlin.

BURLINGTON: Lee McNeely, Tom Stephens.

CARLISLE: Wendell and Virginia Kingsolver.

COVINGTON: William Jacovy, Brenda Ross.

EUBANK: Jackie, Diane and Bradford Elmore.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH: Joyce Potter.

FRANKFORT: Marc and Sherri Evans, Howard P. Jones.

GLASGOW: Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones, Russell Starr.

HAZARD: Dennis and Pauline Sandlin, Donnie Spencer, Benjamin Spencer.

CLARKSON: Ruth Keller.

LEITCHFIELD: Alita Wilson, Mandy Wilson.

LEXINGTON: Mike and Jean Flynn, Jim and Gerry Williams.

LOUISVILLE: Jane and Patricia Bell, Austin and Mary Frances Bloch, Robert Brown, Richard Cassell, Judi Jones, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Robert and Martha Pike, Frederick W. and Anne L. Stamm.

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe.

MUNDFORDVILLE: Steve Kistler.

MURRAY: Clell Peterson.

OWENSBORO: Mary Lydia Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson, William T. Perkins.

STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson.

FIELD NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF THE CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*) IN KENTUCKY

Over the past ten years, the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) has become a quite rare, but regular vagrant to the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River and the Gulf coast. Most records have been in fall and winter.

Throughout the past couple of years I have watched persistently for a California Gull in the large numbers of gulls that congregate in the vicinity of Kentucky and Barkley Dams, Marshall-Livingston-Lyon counties. On March 31, 1984 I was fortunate enough to finally discover a California Gull at Kentucky Dam as it perched on the lock structure on the east side of Kentucky Lake, just above the dam.

I arrived at the dam approximately 1:30 CST and was looking through the hundred or more Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) that were perched on the railing along the lock when my attention was drawn to a dark-mantled gull that was noticeably larger than the nearby Ring-bills. Closer inspection through my spotting scope revealed that the bird had a bill pattern suggestive of California Gull and yellowish-green legs, slightly dulled by a grayish wash.

I moved slightly to get a better angle and could clearly see that the irides of the eyes were dark; I could not say whether brownish, blackish, or other due to the distance, but definitely dark. The color of the orbital ring could not be discerned. After becoming convinced of the bird's identity, I called Dr. Clell Peterson in nearby Murray who immediately departed for the dam. In the meantime I further studied the gull and photographed it from as close as approximately 100 feet. Close scrutiny of the wing-tip pattern revealed that the white of the two outermost primaries was very extensive, yet another character that further reinforced the identification.

The bird's bill was not especially heavy, but was obviously larger than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls'. The bill pattern consisted of a blackish ring around the sub-terminal areas of both the upper and lower mandibles (suggestive of an adult Ring-billed Gull) but was slightly more distal towards the bill tip. The black bar on the lower mandible was adjoined proximally by an obvious red spot at the gonyeal angle. The rest of the bill was yellowish.

The mantle color was a medium gray, somewhat darker than the light gray of adult Herring (*L. argentatus*) and Ring-billed Gulls, and was dark enough to be immediately noticeable. The underparts were entirely white, however, the inner pair of rectrices had dark smudges, somewhat more basal than the normal subterminal dark band of subadult gulls. The upper wing coverts were entirely gray and a little worn, but were devoid of any trace of blackish markings.

The age of the bird was somewhat unclear. The extensive black on the upper mandible was indicative of both subadult and winter-plumaged adult birds, however, the lack of brownish mottling on the head and breast would suggest the bird was in summer plumage. The lack of any blackish markings on the upper wing coverts would indicate that the bird was an adult, however, the curious tail markings suggested a subadult age. Wing tip pattern is variable in the California Gull, and the observed pattern could not be assigned an age for certain, although it was certainly typical of adult birds.

A supplementary field mark of which I was unaware until noted by *American Birds* regional editor, Bruce Peterjohn, was the short posture of the California Gull. Although the California Gull appeared to be of much greater bulk than the nearby Ring-bills, because of its proportionately shorter legs, it did not stand much taller than them. In flight, the bird was obviously larger than Ring-billed Gulls which it occasionally chased.

However, when a first-winter Herring Gull briefly chased the California Gull, the Herring was noticeably larger than it.

By the time Dr. Peterson arrived, the bird had flown out onto Kentucky Lake 150 yards or more from the lock. While the intermediate size between Herring and Ring-billed gulls and the darker mantle color were obvious, we could no longer discern the other diagnostic field marks.

The day was cloudy with light breezes, both aspects which allowed for excellent study of the gulls. Had there been bright sun, the gulls would have been silhouettes against a glare from the lake. All together, the gull was observed for about two hours before it flew a considerable distance out onto Kentucky Lake and was lost from view. Although several persons searched diligently for this bird over the next couple of days, it could not be relocated and probably moved on with the departing Ring-bills.

This sighting represents the first record of the California Gull in Kentucky. While small numbers of California Gulls appear to wander regularly with the many Ring-billed Gulls in their southeastward fall movement from the Canadian Provinces to their wintering grounds in the eastern U.S., it is unknown exactly where these birds winter. With the tremendous numbers of Ring-billed Gulls that winter on the large impoundments of western Kentucky, it is not inconceivable that one or a few California Gulls may remain there with them.—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40222.

Editor's note: Another, or possibly the same bird, was seen above Kentucky Dam on May 16, 1984 by Anne L. Stamm, Donald Summerfield and F. W. Stamm (*Ky. Warbler*, 60:43, 1984).

NEWS AND VIEWS

TAGGED TERNS

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had combinations of letters and numbers. In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEAD-QUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

MOVING?

Please inform the K.O.S. of address changes promptly. Journals returned to the K.O.S. with no address change made by members prior to publication will be remailed only after payment of return and remail costs.

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OUR COVER

Our thanks go to Bert Powell for the excellent cover photograph of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). See Field Notes.

PLUMAGE VARIABILITY AND SOCIAL STATUS IN CAPTIVE MALE HOUSE SPARROWS

GARY RITCHISON

Flocking is a widespread phenomenon among birds that winter in temperate regions. Such behavior may provide many benefits (Brown 1975, Bertram 1975, Bertram 1978); however, flocking may also impose certain costs, one of which is the promotion of intraspecific competition for essential resources. This competition may result in energetically costly fighting or may even lead to injury and death. The cost of such competition may be reduced by social systems that function to order individual priorities at resources and to regulate the frequency, form, and intensity of aggressive behavior (Balph 1977). Recently, it has been suggested that an individual's status within such social systems may be predetermined by inter-individual variation in various plumage characters. Rohwer (1975, 1977) and Rohwer and Ewald (1981) have noted that wintering birds may differ markedly in the degree to which they vary intraspecifically in appearance and indicated that flocking species tend to exhibit polymorphism in plumage coloration or patterns, whereas non-flocking species show monomorphism. Rohwer (1975:594) speculated that in flocking species "... plumage variability has evolved to signal the approximate social status of each individual." According to Rohwer, position in a dominance hierarchy within variably plumaged species is signaled by the degree to which each exhibits black, brightly colored, or contrastingly patterned plumage on the head or breast (i.e. "studliness"). Such status advertisement should be especially advantageous if flocks are large or unstable as it should enable both an incoming bird and establish flock members to assess the newcomer's proper social position without engaging in energetically costly fights (Rohwer 1975). After a series of tests, Rohwer concluded that such status signaling does occur in Harris' Sparrows (*Zonotrichia querula*). He also suggested, on the basis of qualitative observations of some other species, that this may be a widespread phenomenon.

Subsequent investigations (Shields 1977, Ketterson 1979b) have pointed out possible problems with Rohwer's hypothesis and, therefore, Balph *et al.* (1979) have stressed the need for information on the behavior of a variety of winter flocking birds before a satisfactory model of social status signaling can be formulated — if such a model is possible. A flocking species that exhibits much plumage variability and has not yet been examined with regard to the status signaling hypothesis in the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). These birds are both dichromatic (adult males have gray crowns and first-year birds have brown crowns) and polymorphic (males show variation in the distribution of black plumage on their throats and breasts). The objective of the present study was to examine the possible relationships between plumage variability and social status in captive flocks of male House Sparrows.

METHODS

Male House Sparrows were captured in mist nets at Eastern Kentucky University's Stateland Dairy Center (Richmond, KY) on three occasions; 15 birds were captured on 8 November 1983, and 10 were captured on 6 September 1982 and 27 January 1983, respectively. All birds captured on one day made up one experimental flock. The age (adult or first-year bird)

and wing length of each sparrow were recorded and each bird was individually marked with color bands.

Each flock was placed in a flight cage (1.9 m³) made of wood and aluminum screening and was observed for six hours over a period of about two weeks. Dominance-subordination relationships among all members of each flock were ascertained through interactions at various resources in the cage (i.e., water, food, and perches). Only active displacements involving obvious supplants, aggressive displays, or fighting were considered. The sparrows were starved for 1-2h prior to the observation periods and, therefore, nearly 90% of all interactions were noted at the feeder.

After observations were completed the sparrows were sacrificed and a tracing was made of each bird's throat patch. The area of each patch was then determined and each bird was assigned a plumage rank (105-109 mm² = 1, 100-104 mm² = 2, 95-99 mm² = 3, . . . , 35-39 mm² = 15). Plumage ranks were used instead of the actual areas in an attempt to ensure that small errors in the determination of the area would not influence the analysis.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

In an attempt to determine whether or not plumage differences might serve a status-signaling function in House Sparrows, data were examined for possible associations between the area of a bird's throat patch and its social status. Analysis revealed that individuals with larger throat patches were dominant in 118 (64%) of the 185 two-bird combinations in which the two individuals differed in plumage rank, a result that differed significantly from the hypothesis of equal dominance ($X^2=7.03$, $df=1$, $P<0.05$). Thus, the area of the throat patch appears to be a predictor of social rank in male House Sparrows.

Factors such as age and body size have also been found to be predictors of social position in some species. For example, Balph *et al.* (1979) reported that larger juncos (as estimated by wing length) were dominant in 78% of all interactions and, further, Ketterson (1974) noted that older juncos tended to dominate younger individuals. Male House Sparrows can easily be aged by examination of their crown since adults have gray crowns and juveniles have brown crowns (Watson 1970). Analysis revealed that adults were dominant in 70% (33 of 47) of the relationships involving adults and juveniles ($X^2=6.74$, $df=1$, $P<0.01$). Thus, crown color also appears to be a predictor of social rank in male House Sparrows. Watson (1970) also noted that adult House Sparrows tended to dominate juveniles. Surprisingly, larger individuals (as estimated by wing length) were not found to be consistently dominant over smaller individuals (only 88 of 181 relationships; $X^2=0.07$, $df=1$, NS). Cink (1977) suggested that there was a correlation between body size and dominance in House Sparrows but he further indicated that such a correlation existed only when food availability was low and the energetic needs of the birds were high, i.e., on cold days (-5°C) with snow cover. Thus, it is perhaps not unexpected that no correlation was noted in the controlled environment of the laboratory.

The above results suggested a correlation between the size of the throat patch and social status and also between age (i.e., crown color) and status. However, these two factors do not vary independently on one another in House Sparrows. Although there is variability within (and overlap between) age classes, adults generally tend to have larger throat patches than juveniles. The average plumage rank of 23 adults was 4.2 (SD=2.9)

while the average rank of 12 juveniles was 8.7 ($SD=3.7$). A question that arises therefore concerns the relative contributions of age and the size of the throat patch in signaling social status. If the size of the throat patch more accurately reflects social status than does age then associations between the size of the throat patch and status should be similar for sparrows of the same or different ages. However, it was found that individuals with larger throat patches were dominant in a significantly greater proportion of interage (adult vs. juvenile) than intra-age relationships (adult vs. adult or juvenile vs. juvenile; 74% as compared to 56%, $\chi^2=4.29$, $df=1$, $P<0.05$). In other words, the dominance of adults with larger throat patches over juveniles with smaller throat patches appeared to account for much of the signal value associated with the throat patch. Thus, it appears that age (*i.e.*, crown color) is a better, although imperfect, predictor of social status in male House Sparrows than is the size of an individual's throat patch. In this regard it seems that the social status signaling system of male House Sparrows is similar to that proposed for Dark-eyed Juncos by Balph *et al.* (1979). They indicated that in juncos associations between plumage attributes and social position appeared to be imperfect and depended primarily, but not solely, upon differences of age or sex. Ketterson (1979a:97) similarly noted that sex and age were "good predictors of dominance status" in Dark-eyed Juncos. Rohwer *et al.* (1981) reported similar results in Harris' Sparrows. That is, they found that first-year birds often possessed smaller "bibs" (*i.e.*, throat patches) than did adults and, therefore, age (*i.e.*, the dominance of adults with larger bibs over first-year birds with smaller bibs) contributed, at least in part, to the association between bib size and social status.

In summary, it appears that Rohwer's (1975) original hypothesis may have overestimated the association between certain plumage characteristics and social status. The results of the present study and those of Balph *et al.* (1979), Ketterson (1979a), and Rohwer *et al.* (1981) seem to suggest that although individuals may be attentive to plumage cues and such cues may play some role in determining social status, the imperfect association between plumage characters and status indicate that other factors (*e.g.*, age, sex, size and previous experience) are also important.

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THE SPRING MIGRATION OF 1985

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It was an unusual spring with temperatures above normal for all three months. March was unusually warm. Precipitation was below normal for all three months, particularly in April. However, in early May the water was high in some areas in western Kentucky, especially along the Mississippi River.

The majority of observers felt that the spring was not exciting, one said: "migration was dull" and another felt that we "never had a good wave of migrants." Warbler migration was disappointing to some and their numbers were low. Some of the more unusual species were the White-fronted Geese, Cinnamon Teal, Mississippi Kite in central Kentucky, Laughing Gulls and Least Terns. There were also a few sightings of the rare Bachman's Sparrow.

A good number of nesting records were included in the reports, these will be used in the summer summary. Breeding data are essential in order to establish a more accurate evaluation of the present status of the breeding birds of the state. Therefore, observers are urged to include all breeding information in future reports.

Loons through Herons — One to four Common Loons were sighted between March 18 and May 1 at the following locations: Lake Pewee, Louisville, Fort Knox, Waitsboro Recreational area, Lexington and Greenbo Lake (m.ob.). Horned Grebes were scarce. A group of 100 Double-crested Cormorants at Lake #9, April 6 was the largest flock reported (BPB, R.

Cicerello, B. Butler); one to five birds at Kentucky and Smithland Dams (BPB *et al.*), Falls of the Ohio (BS, DD, BPB) and a single bird near Richmond (DN). An American Bittern in west Lexington, March 23 was the only one reported (MF). Although the Great Blue Heron was not as commonly seen as usual, at least 28 were found in scattered areas in the bottoms of Fulton County on May 12 (S, FS) and numerous all over Ballard County on May 20 (CP). Great Egrets were not as numerous as last spring; single birds appeared as early as March 29 at Louisville (LR) and Shippingport Island (B. Anderson *vide* BPB); three to four at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB); two at Cox's Creek (PT); one at Mayfair Basins (DN); thirteen in the bottoms of Fulton County, May 12 (S, FS); six at the latter locations on May 26 and one at Ballard County on May 23 and 25 (BBC). Twelve adult Little Blue Herons were found in Mud Creek bottoms, Fulton County, April 6 (BPB *et al.*); a single at Clark Hatchery, April 15 (FB); two birds over the Falls of the Ohio on May 14 (BPB) and two adults along the Mississippi River, Fulton County, May 26 (BBC). Single Cattle Egrets arrived as early as April 20 in Anderson County (CP) and in Warren County on April 21 (DM); two below Barkley Dam, April 27 and five on Shippingport Island on May 10 were also reported (BPB). Fifty Black-crowned Night Herons had returned to Shippingport Island by March 29 (BPB); eight birds at Elizabethtown on April 4 (G. Elliott *vide* DN); a count of 156 on the Falls of the Ohio, May 4 (LR) and 185 there May 7 (BPB). A few more Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported than usual: eight at Shippingport Island in early April where they remained throughout the period (BPB); several were back in Lexington on April 10 (MF); four near Shepherdsville, May 24 (KC); one at the Falls, May 25 (S) and one in Fulton County on May 26 (BBC).

Large numbers of Canada Geese passed over Lexington during the period (MF); a rather late flock of 32 on Long Run County Park Lake on May 27 and a single bird at Smith's Pond, Oldham County, May 31 (S, FS). There were three reports of White-fronted Geese: singles at Dix Dam, Mercer County in early March (W. Kemper *vide* FL), Honker Bay and on a lake on the Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County, April 14 (BPB, D. Ebel). A flock of 149 Blue-winged Teal was seen at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville on April 6 (DN, LR); a few lingered until late May in Fulton County (BPB). An unusual find was the Cinnamon Teal on the Long Point Tract, Fulton County on April 30 (CP, F. Houser). Twenty-five American Widgeons were at Mayfair Basins, March 30 (S, FS). A single Greater Scaup was at Clark Hatchery (JEL) and Louisville (S, FS), March 24 and 30, respectively; and a flock of 16 on Kentucky Lake, April 14 (BPB, D. Ebel). The Common Merganser was present at Lexington Reservoir in early April (BA); no others reported. Red-breasted Mergansers were reported on the Lexington Reservoir, Ohio River at Louisville and Lake Pewee between March 24 and May 1, with a maximum of 16 at Louisville (BPB) and 20 at Lake Pewee (JH); a few lingered until May 16 (BS, DD, BPB). Ruddy Ducks were present at six locations with 61 as the maximum at Lake Pewee on March 20 (JH); a single straggler was at Petersburg, Boone County, May 18 (LMc).

Hawks — Ten to 15 Black and Turkey Vultures were seen along Kentucky River and at Raven Run Nature Sanctuary in early March (MF); also 15 Blacks at Clark Hatchery on March 24 (FB, JEL). Turkey Vulture migration was noted at Clark Hatchery on March 14 with 37 present, but 86 and 87 were there on March 16 and 24, respectively (FB); a total of

34 in Boone County while taking a spring bird count, May 11 (LMc). One to three Ospreys visited Clark Hatchery between March 25 and April 22 (FB); singles at Pulaski County Park (JEL), Falls of the Ohio (BPB), Kentucky Dam (BPB, B. Anderson) and two at a watershed Lake in Grayson County (BF), all in April; a fairly late straggler in Fayette County on May 2 (BA). A single Mississippi Kite was seen in Fulton, Fulton County on May 4 (BM); three at Columbus Belmont Park, May 11, eight there on May 13 and four along the levee, Fulton County, May 13 (S, FS); nine over Ballard County, two over Wickliffe and one at Columbus Belmont Park, May 25 (BBC); and one as far east as Otter Creek Park, Meade County, May 15 (DD). There were two unusual Bald Eagle records: an immature at First Creek Lake in the Mammoth Cave National Park area, April 21 (LMc, Wm. Jacoby, Tom Stephens); and two in northeast Jefferson County on May 7 (KC, Doris Mager, S. Pickitt). Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were present, but in low numbers. Red-shouldered Hawks continue to be scarce in some areas, but were reported in Jefferson, Hopkins and Edmonson Counties. The Broad-winged Hawk in Boyle County, March 8, was one day later than Kentucky's earliest record (Wm. Kemper *vide* FL). A Peregrine Falcon was reported for the Falls of the Ohio, May 16 (DD, BS).

Grouse through Cranes — Ruffed Grouse were seen at Greenbo Lake State Park on May 3 and 4 (MF). Single Wild Turkeys were present at Fort Knox on April 23 and May 12 (JG). The only Sora was reported from Frankfort Fish Hatchery (no date—MF). Single Common Moorhens were present on the Falls of the Ohio, April 24 (BPB) and at Clark Hatchery, May 18 (BPB, R. Cassell), while four birds were at the latter location on May 19 and 23 and two still there on June 1 (FB). A Maximum of 228 American Coots was observed on Lake Pewee, March 20 (JH; one was still present at Reelfoot NWR, May 26 (BBC). A few records of Sandhill Cranes moving northward included 10 over eastern Jefferson County, March 25 (BPB) and five over south Fayette County during the period (no date—B. Maxson *vide* MF).

Shorebirds — Comments on the shorebird migration were mixed. Flights were disappointing in Fayette County, while above average in Boone County and habitat was somewhat limited in western Kentucky in early May. A single Black-bellied Plover made its appearance below McAlpine Dam, May 1 (LR), two there on May 7 (BPB); four at Clark Hatchery, May 18 (BPB). Lesser Golden Plovers were scarce, although about 50 fed in the bottoms of Fulton County, April 6 (BPB *et al.*). Semipalmated Plovers were fairly widespread and present from April 28 at Louisville (LR) to May 27 at Clark Hatchery (FB), with high counts of 14 at the former location (LR) and 35 at the latter, May 18 (BPB); one to 12 at Lake #9 (BBC), Reelfoot NWR (S, FS), East Bend (LMc) and Frankfort Fish Hatchery (BPB, L. Andrews). Thirteen American Avocets were found below McAlpine Dam on April 27 (LR, *et al.*). A single Greater Yellowleg on a farm pond, March 29 (DN), approximately 100 in the bottoms of Fulton County, April 6 (BPB, *et al.*) and the one in Trigg County on April 19 were the only ones reported (CP). Lesser Yellowlegs were numerous in Fulton County with "hundreds" on April 6 (BPB *et al.*) and 66 at Clark Hatchery on April 27 (FB); scarce at the Falls of Ohio; nineteen at Mayfair Basins, April 29 (DN). Solitary Sandpipers were scarce with only one to four birds reported at each of six widespread loca-

tions. As usual, Spotted Sandpipers were late in arriving and numbers were low. A single Upland Plover was seen near Rich Pond, Warren County on April 21 (BPB, R. Cassell, Sherri and Mark Evans). The only Ruddy Turnstones reported were one to five at the Falls of the Ohio on May 7-21 (BPB) and one at Clark Hatchery, May 18 (BPB, R. Cassell). Remarkable Semipalmated Sandpiper concentrations included 85 at Falls of the Ohio, May 19 (BPB); 95 at Frankfort Fish Hatchery, May 20 (BPB, L. Andrews); 175-200 at Lake #9, May 26 (BBC)—27 (BPB, B. Anderson, J. MacGregor); 76 at Clark Hatchery, May 23 (FB) and 30 at Danville area, June 1 (FL). White-rumped Sandpipers were fairly well distributed and included 13 at the Falls of the Ohio, May 21-24 (BPB), two at Mayfair Basins, May 22 (DN), one at Frankfort Hatchery, May 20 (BPB, L. Andrews), five to 14 at Clark Hatchery, May 21 and 23 respectively (FB), 20 at Lake #9, May 26 (BBC) and 80 there May 30 (BPB *et al.*). Pectoral Sandpipers were seen all across the state, but only in numbers of one to two, except in the bottoms of Fulton County where "hundreds" were reported on April 6 (BPB, R. Cicerello, B. Butler). The only Dunlins reported were two at Clark Hatchery on April 27 and May 23 (FB) and one at the Falls of the Ohio May 8 (BPB) and 18 (LR, BPB). Although Short-billed Dowitchers are uncommon spring transients two were present at Mayfair Basins, May 12 and 16 (BPB) and at Clark Hatchery, May 18 (BPB) and 19 (FB). There were six dowitcher spp. on the Falls of the Ohio on May 21 (BPB, J. Molloy) and one at Clark Hatchery, May 18 (BPB, R. Cassell). Few Common Snipe were reported, but at least 33 were at Lentz's Pond, Louisville during the last week of March (DN). A single Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Reelfoot NWR on April 6 (BPB *et al.*).

Gulls and Terns — Bonaparte's Gulls returned to Cave Run Lake on March 24 with eight plus birds (JEl) and six at the Falls of the Ohio, March 30 (LR); numbers increased in April with 35 at Clark Hatchery (FB), some 35-40 at Frankfort Hatchery (MF) and 550 at Kentucky Lake, April 14 (BPB, D. Ebel); singles lingered until May 24 at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB) and May 27 at Kentucky Lake (BBC). Ring-billed Gull concentrations included 150+ at Clark Hatchery, March 5 (FB), about 200 at Green River State Park, March 3 (JEl) and 200 at Kentucky and Barkley Dams (BPB); four birds lingered at Louisville until May 25 (S, FS) and one still present in early June (BPB). One to seven Caspian Terns visited the Falls of the Ohio (BPB) and peaks of 12 to 20 at Barkley Lake above the Dam (BPB *et al.*). A single Common Tern was seen with two Forster's Terns at Hickman, May 12 (S, FS). Two Forster's Terns arrived at Pulaski County Park on April 18 (JEl); two at the Falls of the Ohio on April 19, 23 and 25 (BPB) and at Barkley and Kentucky Lakes above the dams, April 27 (BPB, B. Anderson, L. Andrews); and seven at Douglas Lake, Fort Knox, April 27 (JG). Also, a number of *Sterna* spp. were sighted at Smithland, Barkley and Kentucky Dams on May 22-23 (BPB, B. Anderson). Three Least Terns were seen along the Mississippi at Hickman on May 12 (S, FS); eight to 10 were at Smithland Dam, May 22-23 (BPB, B. Anderson); one at Chalk Bluff, Hickman County, May 25, two at Fulton County Pumping Station, May 26, ten along the levee and Lake #9 in Fulton County, May 26 (BBC) and again at Smithland Dam, May 31 (BPB). The only Black Terns reported were from Smithland Dam and Barkley Lake on May 22-23, with a high count of 30 birds at the former location (BPB, B. Anderson).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — A number of observers felt that Yellow-billed Cuckoos were scarce. Single Black-billed Cuckoos were seen at four locations: Lexington Cemetery, Greenbo Lake State Park, Greenup County (R. Morris *vide* MF), east Louisville and Falls of the Ohio (BPB). Common Nighthawks were late in arriving and first reported in Estill County, April 20 (BA); a high count of 42 in Louisville, May 19 (DN). The Chuck-will's-widow was first heard at Mammoth Cave National Park and at Madisonville, April 20 and 22 (KOS, JH, respectively); present also at Buckley Hills Nature Sanctuary, Raven Run Sanctuary and Boggs Farm, near Lexington (MF). There were fair numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC). Little comment was made on the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but few were noted this spring in the Lexington area (MF).

Flycatchers — Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from six locations: Cave Hill Cemetery (LR), Shippingport Island (BPB), Bernheim Forest, Otter Creek Park (BS, DD), Lexington Cemetery (MF) and Daniel Boone National Forest in Lee County (MF). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Lexington Cemetery, May 12 (BA) and at the Falls of the Ohio, May 12 and 15 (BPB). The Alder Flycatcher, an uncommon spring transient, was seen and heard at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, May 25 and at the Falls of the Ohio, May 12, 14 and 28 (BPB). There were more reports of the Willow Flycatcher than usual: one rather early bird at Clark Hatchery, May 7, but three there from May 19-27 (FB); one at Petersburg on May 11 and remained throughout the period (LMc); at the Falls of Ohio on May 10, numerous at Shippingport Island in late May (BPB) and one in east Louisville, May 12 (DN). Least Flycatchers were reported at Independence (EG), the Falls of the Ohio (BPB) and Big Black Mountain, where six birds were heard calling on May 27 (DN).

Swallows through Wrens — Purple Martins arrived later than usual and fewer were seen at nesting boxes. Tree Swallows were first noted at Lexington and Cave Run Lake on March 24 (BA, JEL, respectively), with a count of 95 birds at Clark Hatchery, April 7 (FB). Bank Swallows were probably the most numerous: "hundreds" below Smithland Dam, May 22-23 and a small colony near Laketon, May 30 (BPB *et al.*); also at the Falls of the Ohio with a peak of 25 birds, May 24 (BPB). Cliff Swallows appeared to be in low numbers: 25 at Barkley Dam, May 11 were the only ones reported (S, FS). The Carolina Wren seemed to have survived the severe winter in the Bluegrass area (MF), while it showed some decrease in northern Kentucky (LMc). The only Bewick's Wrens were reported from Calloway County at two locations on April 28 and May 10 (CP). No House Wrens were found at Fort Knox where they have been common for the past four years (JG). Winter Wrens were still present at Raven Run Nature Sanctuary and Madisonville, April 3 and 9 (BA, JH, respectively). The only Sedge Wren was reported at Fort Knox, May 5 (JG) and a Marsh Wren near Union, May 11 (LMc).

Kinglets through Shrikes — Ruby-crowned Kinglets were fewer than usual while Golden-crowned were in good numbers, especially at Lexington in March (MF). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was still present at Greenbo Lake State Park, May 4 (BA). Reports on thrushes were mixed, but the majority of observers felt that numbers were low, especially Gray-cheeked. Swainson's Thrushes were common on mulberry bushes at Clark Park, Louisville

from May 6-25 (BS). The Cedar Waxwing migration was late and flocks did not appear until May 16-27 (DN, S, BPB). Few Loggerhead Shrikes were reported: only four sightings.

Vireos through Warblers — A pair of Bell's Vireos was seen on the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, May 26 (BBC). A Solitary Vireo on Cumberland Gap was early on March 24 (BA); six were present on Big Black Mountain on May 27 (DN). Yellow-throated Vireos were seen or heard on at least six locations in Mammoth Cave National Park, April 19-20 (DN, KOS). The only Philadelphia Vireo was reported at Lexington Cemetery, May 12 (BA). The warbler migration was disappointing to many observers; some thought it "dull" and others "very poor." In Danville, however, only the Tennessee and Cape May Warblers seemed "up to, or over, average numbers" (FL). A Tennessee Warbler was still heard singing on June 1 in the Danville area (FL). There were fair numbers of Northern Parula Warblers in western Kentucky in Fulton and Hickman Counties on April 6 (BPB *et al.*). Eleven Yellow Warblers were heard singing at Shippingport Island on May 7 (DN). The Cape May Warbler was reported from eight locations (m. ob.) and 12 were in one group at Bernheim Forest, April 27 (BM, BBC). A single female Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed at the Falls of the Ohio, May 12 (BPB) and at least 20 on Black Mountain, but only on the highest points, May 27 (DN). The Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was most common on April 19 at Madisonville (JH) and at Clark Park, April 22 (BS). A Blackburnian Warbler lingered at the Falls of the Ohio on May 25 (S) and at Burlington, May 28 (LMc). A Pine Warbler was seen in McCreary County, March 17 (JEL). At least 10 Palm Warblers were present at Bowling Green on April 19 (BF). Blackpoll Warblers arrived at Madisonville and Bowling Green, April 19 (JH, BF, respectively). Good numbers of Prothonotary Warblers were found along the Salt River (JG). A Louisiana Waterthrush was seen at Greenbo Lake State Park, May 4 (BA); one on Clear Creek, Bell County, May 26-27 (DN). Connecticut Warblers were observed on the U. of K. Farm, as in past years, May 20-28 (MF); two at Shippingport Island, May 15 and one May 24 (BPB). The Mourning Warbler was seen on several occasions at the Falls of the Ohio, May 12-24 (BPB) and a male in Bell County, May 26 (DN). At least seven Canada Warblers were on Big Black Mountain, May 27, where they are known to nest (DN).

Tanagers through Finches — There were few reports on the tanager migration, although Scarlet Tanagers were in good numbers in the Fort Knox area (JG). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were scarce in many areas and Blue Grosbeaks were reported as far east as Mercer and Fayette Counties. Dickcissels were common in southern Fulton County May 11-13 (S, FS). A Henslow's Sparrow on April 27 near Middle Creek, Boone County, remained throughout the period (LMc); no others reported. Two Bachman's Sparrows were interesting finds near Hamlin, Calloway County, May 13 (CP) and one heard near New Concord, Calloway County, May 26 (BBC). Both the Vesper and Savannah Sparrows were recorded at Clark Hatchery from April 1-7 (FB). Bobolinks were common at Masterson Station, Lexington with an estimated 50 pair in late May (MF); one heard singing near Harrodsburg, June 1 may be a potential nester (FL); one male along the trace in Land Between the Lakes, May 13 was unusual there (S, FS). A flock of 100 Rusty Blackbirds, near the Lexington Reser-

voir, April 1, was the only concentration reported (BA); a single male in the Louisville area, May 12 established a late date (DN). Northern (Baltimore) Orioles were quite common in Boyle, Meade and Hickman Counties and in usual numbers in Woodford, Jessamine, Mercer and Fayette Counties. There was a noticeable increase in the House Finch in northern Kentucky (LMc), also flocks of 70 noted at various feeders in the Bluegrass area (MF). Small numbers of Pine Siskins fed at feeders in March and early April in Louisville, Madisonville, Fort Knox and Fern Creek; eight to ten were still present at the latter location on May 27 and 31 (S). Thirty American Goldfinches fed at two feeders in the Fern Creek area on March 17, but numbers tapered off after that time.

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Kathryn Clay (KC), Don Devitt (DD), Jackie Elmore (JEL), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Michael Flynn (MF), John Getgood (JG), Ed Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Donald Mott (DM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Bernice Shannon (BS), Anne L. Stamm (S), Frederick W. Stamm (FS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Phyllis Theiss (PT). Other abbreviations — Beckham Bird Club (BBC), many observers (m. ob.), Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge (Reelfoot NWR).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

THE 1985 BALD EAGLE COUNT IN KENTUCKY

JAMES S. DURELL AND ANNE L. STAMM

The 1985 statewide Bald Eagle count was conducted in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation Raptor Information Center and in conjunction with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl census. The census period was January 2-16, 1985, with the target date in Kentucky as January 4.

The weather during the entire census period was unfavorable. One to three inches of snow was on the ground in some areas while freezing rain occurred in some sections of the east. Food supply in most locations appeared to be ample.

There was a census total of 143 Bald Eagles: 94 adults and 49 immatures. An adult Golden Eagle was also reported in the Land Between the Lakes area. The Bald Eagle figures represent a 35.3% decrease from 1984, and 5.9% increase over 1983. Of the 35.3% decrease, 29% (64 eagles) occurred in areas with inflated numbers last year that resulted from the freeze-up of Reelfoot Lake. This forced a large concentration of the Reelfoot eagles to move into Kentucky for open water.

New counters in two very productive areas in 1984 reported no eagles this year. These were Obion and Mayfield creek and lakes in the Barlow Bottoms, all near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Eagle numbers increased on the Ohio River, Carrsville to Cincinnati, on Green River Lake, and Laurel Lake. Lake Cumberland reported fewer eagles, probably due to poor visibility.

Table 1 is the summary of the 1985 census and includes a three-year (1983-1985) comparison of the Bald Eagle counts.

Other hawks recorded in connection with the census included three Ospreys (two at Taylorsville Lake, one at Dale Hollow, no details), five Northern Harriers, one Sharp-shinned, three Cooper's, two Red-shouldered, 76 Red-tailed, one Rough-legged and two unidentified hawks, as well as, 105 American Kestrels.

TABLE 1— Summary: Kentucky Eagle Census, January 2-16, 1985 and Comparison with Previous Censuses.

| LOCATION | BALD EAGLES | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Ad. | Imm. | Total | 1984 Total | 1983 Total |
| Mississippi River | 13 | 8 | 21 | 72 | 15 |
| Land Between the Lakes* | 26 | 13 | 39 | 54 | 41 |
| Ohio River, Wickliffe to Carrsville (N. Livingston) | 22 | 12 | 34 | 47 | 25 |
| Ohio River, Carrsville to Owensboro | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| Ohio River, Owensboro to Meldahl Dam | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| Green River Lake | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Kentucky River — Bluegrass Ordinance | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Dale Hollow | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 12 |
| Cave Run and Grayson Lakes | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| Lake Cumberland, Big South Fork | 4 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 18 |
| Dewey Lake | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Laurel Lake | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTALS | 94 | 49 | 143 | 221 | 135 |

*One adult Golden Eagle was observed at this census site in 1985.

There were 47 parties in the field and 82 participants. Groups participating included the Kentucky Ornithological Society, biologists from the federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, TVA and U. S. Forest Service personnel, and a few interested individuals from other organizations.

The writers wish to thank all participants and to request their continued support next year.

— Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Service, Frankfort 40601 and 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

FIELD NOTES

BLACK VULTURES NESTING IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING

The Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) is fairly common but local permanent resident in Kentucky, nesting locally through the western two-thirds of the state. Documented nestings of the species in the state are few (Mengel, The Birds of Kentucky, A.O.U. Monogr. 3, 1965) and nest sites published range from caves in rock cliffs to hollow trees. Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Vol. I, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 167:1-409, 1937) also mentions similar nesting locations in caves, hollow trees and on the ground under vegetation, but does not include the utilization of abandoned buildings. Unlike its close relative, the Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), the Black Vulture apparently nests in abandoned buildings only rarely.

Brown reported nesting of Black Vultures in an abandoned farm house in Henry County, Kentucky in June of 1983 (Stamm, Ky. Warbler 59(4): 50-60, 1983). The following account describes the successful but rarely documented utilization of an abandoned building by Black Vultures for nesting.

On 3 June 1984 we were walking on the University of Louisville's Horner Wildlife Sanctuary 2 km west of Brownsboro, Oldham County, when we discovered an adult Black Vulture in a small, abandoned building. The bird was sitting in a corner and made a repeated hissing noise interspersed with a low growling sound. We withdrew from the building and then re-entered a few minutes later. This time the bird rose onto its feet, revealing two eggs which it had been incubating. The eggs were pale gray-green in color with a scattering of dark brownish spots at the larger end.

After one-two minutes of hissing and growling, without effect upon us, the adult vulture suddenly extended its neck, lowered its head and discharged a line of viscous, dark vomit at the edge of the "nest" area closest to us. The odor from the vomit was powerful and led us to exit the building.

The building in which the nesting bird was found had apparently been a workshop located adjacent to the main farmhouse. The roof of the farmhouse had collapsed, but the workshop was relatively intact. The farm buildings on the sanctuary had been abandoned for at least 15 years. The buildings are located in an overgrown area of mixed mature and medium-sized trees on the edge of a steep, west-facing hillside overlooking a valley running north-south. The workshop building was a wooden frame structure 5.5 x 3.1 meters with a poured concrete floor and was partitioned into two rooms. The front room had two windows, one of which was broken out entirely, and an outside door. The door was ajar, and remained that way throughout the summer. There was also a 40-cm-square hole in the otherwise intact roof of the building. This hole resulted from the collapse of a brick chimney and was located over the partition which separated the building into two rooms. The vulture and its eggs were found in the back room of the building and in the corner formed by the north wall of the building and the dividing partition.

The two eggs were found resting directly on the concrete floor. Although there was a thin layer of rotten wood, dirt, bits of cloth, and other trash scattered over the floor, the whole area around the eggs appeared to have been cleared of all debris.

Visits to the area were continued over the summer of 1984 and the following supplementary notes were made:

June 17 — again found one adult bird sitting on two eggs in same location.

Much hissing and growling again, but no vomiting.

June 23 — Found the adult birds in usual location. However, when it arose two down-covered chicks were revealed. These birds were of a rich tan or buff color.

July 8 — Chicks a little larger, adult was absent when we arrived. Chicks hissed and growled at us. They also huddled together, spread their wings and lowered their heads toward the ground in our direction.

July 22 — Chicks still down-covered and rather small. First noticed a powerful odor typical of poultry farms in the building.

July 28 — As we approached the building an adult vulture flew up from the open doorway and perched for a few seconds on one of the two standing chimneys of the farmhouse before finally flying off. Chicks still rather small.

August 4 — Chicks growing some — smell now noticeable even outside of the building. No adults seen.

August 25 — Chicks larger now with some dark primary feathers coming in. No adults seen.

September 6 — Some tan down still visible on lower body, but young birds mostly black now. No adults seen.

September 9 — Young birds large now, almost all black. For the first time they were up off the floor, perched on crossbars in the wall about 1.2 meters above the floor. No adults seen.

September 16 — Found both young birds perched on the roof of the farmhouse, 12 meters from the workshop building. One of them flapped rather clumsily from a collapsed portion of the roof to the top of one of the standing chimneys. No adults seen.

September 23 — As we arrived, two adult Black Vultures which had been perched in a large dead tree 40 meters east of the farmhouse took wing and flew off. We found the two young vultures (tuft of tan down still visible on top of head at base of beak) perched on top of the farmhouse. They watched us carefully but made no attempt to fly off.

September 30 — Found both young vultures and one adult bird perched in same dead tree as above. Adult flew off immediately, one of the young birds also flew off after 30 seconds. Second young bird remained in the tree for 1-2 minutes and then flew-off.

In summary, this account fully documents one of the few cases of the utilization of an abandoned building by Black Vultures for nesting. While not uncommonly found nesting along cliffs and in hollow dead trees in the state, nesting in abandoned buildings is apparently rarely practiced by Black Vultures. However, the Turkey Vulture has been reported nesting in abandoned buildings on many occasions. — WILLIAM and JUANELLE PEARSON, Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. 40292.

OBSERVATIONS OF NESTING BARN OWLS (*Tyto alba*)

On 10 March 1985, grackles and bluejays were making quite a fuss over something in a tall hemlock tree which stands within four feet of my home in Stanley, Kentucky. I soon found the cause of their concern. An adult Barn Owl was perched 20 feet up the tree. It stayed there all day but did not return the next. On 7 April 1985, grackles and bluejays again alerted me to the presence of a Barn Owl.

On Sunday, 30 June at 7:00 a.m., I noticed a young Barn Owl perched in the top of a shrub at eye level just six feet from my drive. At one point, the young owl became a little excited and flew to the ground. After many pictures were taken (see front cover), I put the owl back on the shrub. As soon as darkness came, the owl flew up into a maple tree in my neighbor's yard. I judged the young owl to be about eight weeks old at that time.

On 1 July 1985, I found two young Barn Owls in the maple tree in my neighbor's yard. One owl was in the nest cavity, the other was perched on a limb about eight feet above the nest cavity. On 4 July 1985, I went upstairs in my neighbor's home. By looking out an upstairs window, I got a much better view of the nest cavity and there were two adults and one immature owl looking at me. The other immature owl was perched on a limb nearby. This maple tree was about 20 feet from the window and the nest cavity was about 18 feet above ground and faced the house. I believe that Barn Owls have been nesting in this tree for several years. In 1984, I observed an adult Barn Owl in the hemlock and a large hackberry tree in my lawn on at least a dozen occasions. However, I never saw its mate or young. After a severe windstorm in April 1983, my neighbor had this maple tree trimmed. The tree trimmers reported that two large owls flew out as they were trimming but they could not identify them.

Pellets can be found under most trees in my and my neighbor's yard, as well as, on the roof of my house. There is a feed mill about 100 yards down the street which I believe is the source of most of their food (mice). I have, however, found the heads of several female Red-winged Blackbirds and the heads of two very small rabbits.—THOMAS E. STEVENSON, P.O. Box 7, Stanley, Ky. 42375.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The 1985 fall meeting will be held at Pine Mountain State Resort Park on September 20, 21 and 22. Please plan to attend. Fred has planned a good hawk migration for the Pinnacle, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Also, Barry Howard will speak on the "Natural History of Pine Mountain." Anyone who would like to make a presentation at the Friday evening meeting should contact Fred M. Busroe, Program Chairman, UPO 1352, Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. 40351. Phone (606) 783-2951.

MOVING?

Please inform the K.O.S. of address changes promptly. Journals returned to the K.O.S. with no address change made by members prior to publication will be remailed only after payment of return and remail costs.

CORRECTION

Due to the editor's oversight, the sighting of an Osprey at Mammoth Cave National Park during the Spring Meeting was omitted from the official count list.

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OUR COVER

Our thanks go to our gifted staff artist, Ray Harm, for this painting of the Pintail Duck.

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1985

ANNE L. STAMM

June was cool and wet throughout much of the state, with a severe windstorm in the Louisville area on June 9. Trees were uprooted causing damage to nesting birds. However, in July precipitation averaged below normal.

The spring migration continued through the early part of June for some shorebirds and a Black Duck lingered at the Falls of the Ohio until June 14. The reports contained an increasing amount of data on the actual breeding activities of the birds of the state. Four nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were near Shepherdsville and reported by Clay. Busroe, in his intensive survey of the Clark Fish Hatchery, found a nest of Common Moorhens; Palmer-Ball, Jr. discovered a nest of Little Blue Herons on Shippingport Island, the second record for the state; and Mason established the breeding record of Tree Swallows in Warren County. The Stamms investigated a new colony of Bank Swallows in Carroll County and McNeely discovered a Cliff Swallow colony in western Boone County. Noonan watched a Least Flycatcher carry food repeatedly to an area on Big Black Mountain, a behavior characteristic of feeding young. Heretofore, no definite breeding record for the latter species was known. Also, Shadowen continued his study of the House Wren at Bowling Green, with interesting results. Below are listed additional comments on the breeding season during June and July.

Pelicans through Herons — Single White Pelicans appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on June 20 (BPB, DN), July 27 (LR) and July 30 (R. Cisserollo, J. Molloy *vide* BPB). The three Least Bitterns at Clark Fish Hatchery on June 10 was noteworthy, one to two birds were seen there until mid-July (FB) and may have nested there; two still present on July 21 (BA). The Great Blue Heron was reported as "more numerous in Ballard County than usual for summer" (CP). The nesting population had increased substantially. The aerial survey at the Axe Lake Colony in Ballard County revealed 242 nests. This was an increase of 18% over last year according to TVA biologist B. P. Pullin's report. Also mentioned in the report were the four colonies in Carlisle, Marshall, Union and Webster-Crittenden Counties with a total of 746 active nests. Additional reports on Great Blue Herons included 13 birds at Smithland Dam, July 5 (LR); post-breeding birds evident at several locations in Boone County (LMc); two at the Falls of the Ohio from June 28 through July (BPB) and observed throughout the period in Fayette County (BA). A nest of Little Blue Herons with five young was found on Shippingport Island in early July, the second known breeding record in the state (BPB); 12 immatures in Carlisle County on July 30 and an adult bird about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the immatures (CP). Four nests with half-grown Cattle Egrets were found on Shippingport Island during July; 11 immatures and 11 adults in the colony on July 12 (BPB); 25+ adults and 50+ immatures were present in Carlisle County on July 30 (CP). Little mention was made of Green-backed Herons, except that three fledged at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC), small numbers reported in Kenton, Campbell, Boone, Fayette and Jefferson Counties, with

a count of 20 at the Clark Fish Hatchery. A survey of a Black-crowned Night Heronry on Shippingport Island revealed 275 active nests (BPB, S. Evans, M. Evans, J. Molloy), a few nests were destroyed by the June storm; adults and young numbered 280 on July 12 at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB); the colony in Trigg County was also active (F. Boyd *fide* B. P. Pullin); a single bird at East Bend, Boone County on July 21 was unusual there (LMc). The following nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported: four near Shepherdsville in late May (KC), five at Lexington (M. Flynn, RM) and four at Shippingport Island, one of which was destroyed by the June 9 storm (BPB); an adult was observed at S. Fork Creek on June 15, but no nest was found (WM).

Geese through Ducks — A flock of 32 Canada Geese flying in V-formation from south Louisville towards the Ohio River on July 15 was unusual (DS), but may have been some of the summering birds (both wild and introduced) which have been found in some locations during the summer months. Wood Ducks apparently had a good year in most areas, with pairs found with broods in Boone, Owen (LMc), Warren (WM) and Jefferson Counties (S, FS). A Black Duck lingered at the Falls of the Ohio until June 14 (BPB). Although Mallards were in good numbers including several broods of young at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB), they seemed to be down in numbers in central Kentucky (RM). An interesting record was the sighting of a male and female Blue-winged Teal on June 21 on a BBS in northeast Hickman County (CP).

Hawks — A Turkey Vulture nest with eggs was found near Union (LMc); numbers appeared to be lower than normal in most of western Kentucky (CP). Ospreys normally are rare in summer, but were found at seven widely scattered locations during June and July, all were single birds, with the exception of a pair at Barren River; also a Kentucky-hacked bird wearing a red leg band showed up at the Falls of the Ohio in mid-June and again in the latter part of July (m. ob.). An adult Bald Eagle was seen on the Cumberland River on June 17 (*fide* JD) and three in the West Point area on June 4 (DS). A single Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in Taylor County, June 5 (BPB). The only nest of Red-shouldered Hawks was reported at Louisville (LR, BPB). Two immature Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Fishing Creek Area, July 24 (JEL). Reports on American Kestrels were mixed: numerous in Owensboro and Daviess County (RI), scarce in Lexington (RM) and "down in numbers where they have been traditionally stable" around Barren River Reservoir and between Bowling Green and Glasgow (WM).

Grouse through Moorhen — A Ruffed Grouse in Grayson County on July 28 was an interesting find (KC). Bobwhites survived the winter in good numbers in the Owensboro area (RI). Common Moorhens were still present on the Clark Hatchery on June 7 and a nest with two eggs was discovered, but later found destroyed, two birds were still present on July 14 (FB); three birds were reported at the Frankfort Fish Hatchery in early June by Sherri Evans and in mid-June by Robert Morris.

Shorebirds — Some shorebirds were still passing through in June: four peeps in Boone County on June 2 (LMc); two Semipalmated Sandpipers

at the Falls of the Ohio, June 14 and a White-rumped Sandpiper there on June 19 (BPB). Killdeer with young were found at Burlington, Petersburg (LMc) and in central Kentucky (RM); numbers peaked at Clark Hatchery on July 14 with 70 birds (FP) and at the Falls of the Ohio with 83 on July 24 (LR). Lesser Yellowlegs arrived at Louisville on July 9 (LR) and at the Clark Fish Hatchery on July 14 (FB), with 17 birds as the high at the former location on July 27 (BPB). Greater Yellowlegs were reported from only two locations in the Louisville area, with one to six birds from July 11-27 (LR, BPB, DN) and at Clark Fish Hatchery on July 21 (BA). Eleven Solitary Sandpipers appeared at the Mayfair Basins, Louisville on July 17 (DN) and four at the Clark Hatchery, July 14 (FB) and 21 (BA). A single Willet was an early migrant at the Falls of the Ohio on July 5 (BPB). Three downy young Spotted Sandpipers were found on the Falls of the Ohio on July 12 (BPB), maximum birds there — 12 — on July 24 (BPB). This count is in sharp contrast to the numbers summering in the mid-sixties when 25-30 were present and an estimated 10-12 nesting pairs, all showing territorial behavior patterns (Ky. Warbler, 42: 3-4, 1966). Two Sanderlings arrived at the Falls of the Ohio on July 21 (BPB) and three on July 24 (LR). Although a Semipalmated Sandpiper lingered at the latter location until June 14 (BPB), 17 had returned to the Clark Hatchery on July 14 (FB) and 10 at Mayfair Basins, July 17 (DN); also at BWMA on July 23 (M. Miller, CP) and the Falls of the Ohio on July 24 (LR, BPB). A few Western Sandpipers showed up at two Louisville locations (DN, BPB *et al.*). Least Sandpipers arrived at the Falls of the Ohio on July 5 (same dates as in 1983) with a maximum of 10 birds on July 24 (BPB). The species was widely distributed, but in small numbers during late July from BWMA (CP, M. Miller) to Mayfair Basins (DN) and Clark Hatchery (BPB). A White-rumped Sandpiper lingered at the Falls of the Ohio until June 14 (BPB). Only a small number of Pectoral Sandpipers had arrived by mid-July at a few locations. A Single Stilt Sandpiper was recorded at Mayfair Basins on July 17 (DN) and at the Falls of the Ohio on July 26 (BPB). Returning Short-billed Dowitchers were noted at Clark Fish Hatchery on July 14 with two birds (FB) and six there on July 21 (BA) and one at Mayfair Basins, July 27 (DN).

Gulls through Terns — A Franklin's Gull at the Falls of the Ohio on June 4-5 was of interest and observed by many (DN). A second-year Herring Gull was seen at the same location on June 18-20 and a single Caspian Tern on June 14, July 2 (BPB) and two on July 13 (LR). Five migrant Forster's Terns appeared on the Falls of the Ohio on July 26 (BPB). A Least Tern was seen at BWMA on July 23 (CP, M. Miller) and approximately 170 adult birds in five colonies along the Mississippi River, according to a survey by the Missouri Conservation Department (B. Anderson *vide* BPB), while last year the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department survey showed 210 adults in three active and three suspected colonies (S. Evans). A Black Tern was observed on the Falls of the Ohio on July 2 (two days earlier than previous local records) and four there on July 26 (BPB, J. Molloy).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — There were three reports of single Black-billed Cuckoos: along Middle Creek, Boone County, June 28 (LMc), Rutland, Harrison County on July 3 and in Greenup County, July 28 (BPB).

A nest of Great Horned Owls was noted in Boyle County (W. Kemper *vide* FL). A pair of Barn Owls reared two young at Stanley, Daviess County (T. Stevenson, RI). Whip-poor-wills seemed to be down in numbers in Daviess County this summer (RI). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were present in good numbers at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC) and at various feeders near Jamestown (L. Moser *vide* S). Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce in some sections of Jefferson and Oldham Counties (DN). At least one nest of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was found in Laurel County in June (BK).

Flycatchers through Swallows — Two to three Willow Flycatchers were seen and heard at the Clark Fish Hatchery from May to late July (FB) and may have nested there: six nests with eggs or young were found on Shippingport Island, but two nests were destroyed by the June 9 storm (BPB, J. Molloy *et al.*); one bird at Petersburg, from May through June (LMc). A record worthy of note was that of a Least Flycatcher observed carrying food to a certain shrub on Big Black Mountain on May 27 (DN). Three Eastern Phoebe nests, with eggs or young, were found in northern Kentucky: one in Boone County and two in Owen County (LMc). One of the latter was parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Fewer Purple Martins nested in the Seneca Park nest boxes than in 1984, but in Shelby County numbers were normal (S). The only concentration was an estimated 8500 birds near Shippingport Island on July 19 where later they joined a flock at the Colgate Palmolive plant, Jeffersonville, Indiana where an estimated 17,000 birds settled down for the night (BPB). Eight pairs of Tree Swallows were discovered at Dewey Lake on June 16 and documented as a breeding species for Warren County (WM). Only a few Rough-winged Swallows were found on the Henry County BBS, where a few years ago many nested (S, FS); also found breeding in Jefferson and Kenton Counties (JR, EG, respectively). Bank Swallows had a successful year: two small colonies in Boone County (LMc); hundreds in a colony in Livingston County and also in Trimble County (BPB, R. Cassell); and two colonies in Carroll County: one of the latter was in a new gravel pit and had 67 active nesting burrows and at least 150 adult birds, many feeding fully feathered young about ready to leave the nest. The other colony, in an old gravel pit, had at least 76 nesting burrows on the one side of the pit, but only some 25+ birds on July 30. It is likely that the majority of the birds had fledged by the time we were notified by Jim Durell of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department (S, FS). It is also probable that a colony existed in the old gravel pit in previous years but heretofore no colony was known in Carroll County. The colony of Cliff Swallows at the Barren River Reservoir was up from 1984 and at least 476 active nests were found by mid-June (WM). A new, small colony of 20 nests was discovered on June 2 in western Boone County, near a bridge over Gun Powder Creek (LMc); also five birds in extreme north-central Christian County on June 18 may indicate a new breeding season record for that county (AS).

Wrens through Shrikes — A number of Carolina Wren nests, with eggs or young fledged, were reported from Burlington (LMc) and Louisville (KC, S); numbers not up to par from pre-1978 figures in Daviess County (RI). Encouraging were the reports of Bewick's Wrens from five widely scattered locations: singles in Harrison, Shelby, Todd-Christian line, Trigg

and Woodford Counties (BPB, S, J. Erwin and CP, M. Sutton *vide* RM, respectively). House Wrens continued to use the Eastern Bluebird boxes which were erected in Warren County with much success (HS, WM). A group of four to five Sedge Wrens was found in an old hayfield along the Ohio River bottom, two miles west of Carrsville, Livingston County on July 13 (BPB, R. Cassell). This sighting is farther west than previous breeding season records. In the western edge of Daviess County the Eastern Bluebird was in lower numbers than in 1984, while good numbers were present in the eastern section of the County (M. Brown *vide* RI). Cedar Waxwings remained in good numbers throughout the summer in northern Kentucky (LMc); nests or young fledglings observed in Jefferson, Trimble (BPB) and Woodford Counties (S. Hundley *vide* S) and birds recorded during the period in Spencer and Taylor Counties (BPB). The Loggerhead Shrike was reported as holding its own in western Kentucky (CP).

Vireos through Warblers — A nest of Bell's Vireos was being built on the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area on May 25 (BBC). A Parula Warbler was found singing at Lock Mary, Hopkins County, June 1 (JH). The only Pine Warblers reported were two birds: one in the vicinity of Lake Beshear, Caldwell County, June 19 (CP) and one heard the entire month of June at Maple Spring, Mammoth Cave National Park (WM), but no nest found. A Louisiana Waterthrush nest with five eggs and later five young was found at Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve in early May and a Kentucky Warbler nest with four young also there on June 28 (LMc). Comments on the Yellow-breasted Chat were mixed: scarce in Owensboro, only one pair was found where normally five or six are present (RI); more common than in past years, nesting observed at three locations in Oldham and Jefferson Counties (DN).

Tanagers through Finches — A Scarlet Tanager was singing for some time during the period in the Owensboro area, but no nest was found (RI); one present at Lock Mary on June 1 and one at Pond River, July 8, both in Hopkins County, where it is a rare summer resident (JH). Blue Grosbeaks continued to increase in numbers and to extend their range north and eastward in the state. Two pairs of Bachman's Sparrows were found in a field near Hamlin during the period (CP). This was a good year for Dickcissels, particularly in western Kentucky (CP), numbers were on territory in mid-May in southern Fulton County (S, FS); observed nesting at Masterson Station Park in Lexington (M. Flynn, RM). A noteworthy record was that of a Lark Sparrow in southern Pendleton County on July 3 (BPB, B. Anderson). Savannah Sparrows were reported from Masterson Station Park during the period (RM). A number of interesting records of Grasshopper Sparrows were reported: singing birds at two Boone County locations, June 1 and one near Union in the same County on July 27 (LMc); birds noted in Harrison and Pendleton Counties, July 3 (BPB, B. Anderson), six singing birds at three locations on June 9 in Henry County (S, FS) and some at Lexington, Fayette County during the period (RM). There were more reports of Henslow's Sparrows than in recent years: one at two locations in Boone County (LMc); five or more pairs at Lexington, Fayette County and more at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Preserve (RM and BA); three pairs north of Princeton (R. Rowland *vide* CP); and two to three birds during June and July at the Clark Hatchery (FB). Several Song Sparrows

were heard and seen in Hopkins County where it now appears "to be a regular breeding bird, although only in some areas of the county" (JH); down drastically on the Shelby County BBS on June 9 as compared with the June 3, 1984 census (S, FS). Bobolinks were in good numbers at Masterson Station Park, where many adult birds were seen carrying food to young (RM). House Finches continued to spread and several nests were reported: two successful broods in Jefferson County (WJ) and a pair raised two young in northern Rowan County (FB). American Goldfinches are traditionally late nesters, but an adult was seen feeding young out of the nest on the early date of July 8 in the Valley Station area (DS).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), Kathryn Clay James Durrell (JD), Jackie Elmore (JEL), Michael Flynn (MF), Ed Grone-man (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Brian Knowles (BK), F. Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Wayne Mason (WM), Robert Morris (RM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Herbert E. Shadowen (HS), Judy Robertson (JR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Allen Stickley (AS), Donald Summerfield (DS). Other abbreviations — Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Ballard Wildlife Management Area (BWMA), many observers (m.ob.).

Information on the Fall Migration (August, September October and November) should reach the writer no later than *December 7*.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall Meeting — September 20-22, 1985

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1985 Fall Meeting at Pine Mountain State Park on September 20-22.

President Blaine Ferrell welcomed members and guests to the Friday evening session, held at 7:30 P.M. in the Ray Harm Room of the Evans Lodge. Fred Busroe introduced the evening speakers, Dr. Herb Shadowen and Brad Andres. Dr. Shadowen discussed the use of nest boxes by House Wrens in the Bowling Green area. Brad Andres presented an interesting program on hawk migration along the Cumberland Ridge, along with tips on identifying raptors in flight.

Field trips and leaders for Saturday were announced. A social hour and refreshments followed the evening program.

Early morning fog and mild temperatures greeted birders on Saturday morning field trips. Blaine Ferrell led a 5:30 A.M. trip around the lodge area, and a second trip at 8:00 A.M. in the Park. Barry Howard led his group to various areas within the Park and the Clear Creek Baptist School. Fred Busroe led the final group to the golf course and vicinity. An afternoon field trip was taken to the Pinnacle at Cumberland Gap National

Historical Park to observe raptor migration. A total of 78 species were recorded for the day.

The Board of Directors met at the Pinnacle of Cumberland Gap at 4:30 P.M.

The evening meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with dinner in the Ray Harm Room of Evans Lodge. Barry Howard, former park naturalist, was the evening speaker, and gave a fascinating presentation on the natural history of Pine Mountain.

A brief business meeting followed the evening program. A motion to change the dues structure by raising the annual dues for Contributing Members from \$6.00 to \$10.00, and to add a new Corporate Membership category with no fixed amount of dues, was presented and passed by those present. Dr. Herb Shadowen, representing the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the coming year: President — Fred Busroe, Vice-President — James Williams, and Councilors — Dennis Sandlin and Thomas Stevenson. Other officers would continue with their current terms of office. The slate was approved as presented.

Future meeting dates and localities were noted as follows: April 25-27, 1986 at Rough River Dam State Park, October 3-5, 1986 at either Kenlake State Park or Kentucky Dam Village State Park, and Spring 1987 at Lake Cumberland State Park.

It was agreed to reinstate KOS membership awards, with responsibility falling to the Nominating Committee for selection of possible recipients.

Blaine Ferrell led the members in compiling the day's bird list. Additional birds seen on Sunday brought the weekend total to 80 species.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee K. McNeely
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE K.O.S. 1985 FALL MEETING

BOMBAY, INDIA: Sundeep Waslekar

BOWLING GREEN: Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guthrie, Tony Guthrie, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mason, Ruth and William Mathes and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Shadowen

BURLINGTON: Becky, David and Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely and Tom Stephens

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

CUMBERLAND: Barry Howard

ELIZABETHTOWN: Joan Noel

FRANKFORT: Jim Durell

HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin and Donnie Spencer

HODGENVILLE: Susan Cruse

JEFFERSONVILLE, IN: Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Jenkins

LEITCHFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. Montelle Wilson

LEXINGTON: Brad Andres, Sara McClellan and Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Roland Blahnik, Richard Cassell, Kathryn Clay, Diane Ebel, Harriet Korfhage, Kay Mudd, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Esther Pardue, Anne and Fred W. Stamm and Don Summerfield

MACEO: Mike Brown, Bert and Millie Powell

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

OWENSBORO: Mary Lydia Greenwell, John Humphrey, Ray R. and L. C. Iles, Roseann Radzelovage and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wilson

STANLEY: Tom and Anna Stevenson

UTICA: Tony and Brenla Eaden

VERSAILLES: Blanche Schorr

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING, 1985

Birds observed on Saturday field trips include: Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 78 species. A Black-throated Blue Warbler and Ovenbird were seen on Sunday. This brought the weekend total to 80 species.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Fiscal Year 1984-1985

GENERAL FUND

| | |
|---|------------|
| Bank Balance, September 25, 1984, First National Bank | \$1,337.40 |
|---|------------|

Receipts

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Membership Dues | \$2,231.00 | |
| Interest Income: | | |
| Endowment Fund | 454.51 | |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 115.71 | |
| Fall Meeting | 216.50 | |
| Spring Meeting | 117.00 | |
| Sale of Warblers, check lists, etc. | 152.85 | 3,287.57 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$4,624.97 |

Disbursements

| | | |
|---|------------|----------|
| Printing: | | |
| Kentucky Warbler | \$1,709.06 | |
| Envelopes | 106.75 | |
| Treasurer's Expenses (labels, envelopes, etc.) | 42.95 | |
| Postage | 275.14 | |
| Meeting Expenses | 331.39 | |
| Safety Deposit Box | 20.00 | |
| Nature Conservancy Dues | 20.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 9.67 | |
| Bank Service Charge | 6.24 | |
| Transfer Life Memberships (3) to Endowment Fund | 225.00 | |
| Transfer Interest to Gordon Wilson Fund | 115.71 | 2,861.91 |
| | | <hr/> |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Cash Balance, First National Bank, September 16, 1985 | \$1,763.06 |
|---|------------|

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Balance in Savings Account - Future Federal, September 25, 1984 .. | \$ 579.16 |
| Certificate of Deposit (4) | 4,500.00 |

Receipts

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Interest Income: | | |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$ 454.51 | |
| Savings Account | 24.91 | |
| Life Memberships (3) | 225.00 | 704.42 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$5,783.58 |

Disbursements

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Transfer to General Fund | \$ 454.51 |
| | <u>\$5,329.07</u> |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance in Fund, September 16, 1985 | |
| Certificate of Deposit (4) | \$4,500.00 |
| Balance in Savings Account | 829.07 |
| | <u> </u> |
| Total | \$5,329.07 |
| | <u> </u> |

GORDON WILSON FUND

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Balance in Savings Account, September 25, 1984 | \$1,019.61 |
| Certificates of Deposit (2) Great Financial Federal | 2,000.00 |
| | <u> </u> |
| | 3,019.61 |

Receipts

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Interest on Certificate of Deposit | \$ 115.71 | |
| Interest on Savings Account | 56.49 | 172.20 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | | \$3,191.81 |
| | | <u> </u> |
| Certificate of Deposit | 2,000.00 | |
| Balance in Savings Account | 1,191.81 | |
| | <u> </u> | |
| | \$3,191.81 | |

BALANCE SHEET**September 16, 1985****Assets:**

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Cash — General Fund | \$ 1,763.06 |
| Endowment Fund | 5,329.07 |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 3,191.81 |
| | <u> </u> |
| Total | \$10,283.94 |
| | <u> </u> |

Liabilities

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Accounts Payable | \$ 76.00 |
|------------------|----------|

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| NET WORTH | 10,207.94 |
| | <u> </u> |
| | \$10,283.94 |
| | <u> </u> |

Harriet Korfhage
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

The treasurer's records, bank statements, certificates of deposit and other financial records of the Society were examined for the period of September 25, 1984 through September 16, 1985.

The examination confirmed that receipts and disbursements have been accounted for and bank balances are in agreement with the treasurer's statements.

Frederick W. Stamm

BOOK REVIEW

GUIDE TO OWL WATCHING IN NORTH AMERICA, by Donald S. Heintzelman. Winchester Press, An Impact of New Century Publishers, Inc., 220 Old New Brunswick Road, Piscataway, N.J. 08854, 1984; pp. xiii + 193. \$8.95.

The release letter accompanying this publication included the following statement: "Here is an inexpensive, compact, truly comprehensive, illustrated manual covering all aspects of owl watching." The cover construction is paperback, and the illustrations are not in color, so it should be inexpensive. When considering today's publication costs, \$8.95 is a very reasonable cost. It is 193 pages in length, including the index; thus, it is compact. Its topics include species accounts, types and methods of owl watching, owl watching equipment, owl pellets and food habits, owl migrations and invasions, survival adaptations, owl conservation, field marks, and owl watching sites in the United States and Canada. Each species account includes common and scientific names, dimensions, field recognition, flight style, voice, nest, eggs, food, habitat, and North American distribution. Thus, much information concerning each North American owl species is presented in a concise manner. Other inclusions that may be helpful to those interested in owls include owl silhouettes, owl nest box dimensions, an owl pellet guide, and suggested reading.

Some might question the value of utilizing 74 pages (38 percent of the book) in listing and briefly describing owl watching sites. This procedure was used in *Kentucky Birds*, *A Finding Guide*, by Barbour, *et al.* A few years following publication some of the listed areas had undergone radical change and were no longer the desirable birding areas they were at the time of writing. Heintzelman briefly mentions two Kentucky areas, the Kleber Wildlife Area near Frankfort and Mammoth Cave National Park. These two areas will probably remain in their present natural state for many years because they are publicly owned.

Disappointing aspects of the guide include the absence of color, the absence of range maps, and the absence of descriptions comparing similar species. Identification of species having color phases or plumage variations are much easier when color plates are used, but this would have increased the publication price considerably. Anyone attracted to owl watching will probably already possess a general field guide containing the features mentioned above.

Those expecting a field identification guide equal to those of Peterson or Robbins, *et al.* will be disappointed in *Guide to Owl Watching in North America*, but those who desire more information concerning owls than the brief species coverage in field guides will find this publication a desirable addition to their libraries. It is particularly recommended to those who desire to expand their knowledge of owls and who would travel extensively to observe owls in the field.—H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.

FIELD NOTES

SAW-WHET OWL IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

While participating on the Louisville area Christmas Bird Count on December 18, 1983, John Callahan and I were fortunate enough to blunder upon a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*).

We were covering an overgrown pasture on Surrey Hills Farm in the northeast portion of Jefferson County and were heading up a gradual hillside dotted with Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.), and assorted small saplings, when a couple of small White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) seedlings attracted our attention. Because I was so surprised to see these trees coming up in the pasture, I walked over to one for closer inspection. As I stepped up to the pine, my right arm brushed a nearby cedar and caused a small commotion in the branches. The rustling noise attracted my attention, and I turned to look into the tree only to see a very distraught and quite startled Saw-whet Owl staring at me not a foot or two away. The owl was in the process of making a hasty retreat from the tree, from which it immediately flew.

Astonished by what I had just seen, I turned to John who had also seen the little owl before its exit out the back side of the tree. Because of the number of cedars, the owl's destination was unknown, but feeling confident that the bird was very close by, we set out in search of it. Nearly an hour passed before we found the bird again, and then only because it became nervous and flushed again from another cedar. This time the bird landed in clear view in a small deciduous sapling, and both of us studied the bird through binoculars at about thirty feet for several minutes. The bird soon ducked into a thick tangle of honeysuckle where we left it for fear of disturbing it too much.

The small size and "earless" head were immediately obvious to us. Otherwise, the bird had bright yellow eyes, a dark, blackish bill, whitish eyebrows that converged over the bill, light underparts heavily streaked with broad chestnut stripes, and medium brown wings, back and tail. The scapulars had large white spots.

The spot from which the owl was first flushed had no accumulation of droppings or pellets, indicating that the bird had either not been in the vicinity long, or that it did not use that roost regularly. Subsequent searches for the bird have been unsuccessful, but I feel sure that I flushed the bird from another cedar about a week after the initial sighting. Al-

though I did not see it well, a similarly-sized bird flushed from the tree before I could get a good look.

This appears to be the third Louisville sighting of a Saw-whet Owl. Monroe, Jr. (KW 52: 52) gives one record for fall and early winter 1955 and Stamm (KW 58: 51) gives another for a bird struck by a moving car on March 31, 1982. There seem to be less than a dozen records for the state. — Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Rd., Louisville 40222.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE AT THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

On March 11, 1985, Mr. John D. Humphrey and myself found a White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) on a grassy shore at the Land Between the Lakes. It was feeding with a flock of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) on Honker Lake. The bird was at the rear of the flock and then would mingle for a short time before assuming his solitary position. Mr. Humphrey and I had an excellent view of this specimen and examined him at length through binoculars (10X50 to 40 power zoom and 7X35). The white face was examined closely and the bright orange feet and legs and striped belly were also noted. We compared the description with that in Peterson's Field Guide and the Golden Guide. Due to the closeness (about 200 feet) and careful study, we feel absolutely sure of the identification.

There is no doubt that this species is a regular transient through this area but due to the few records we felt that this sighting was significant. In reference to the status of this species, the reader is directed to "The Birds of Kentucky" by Dr. Robert M. Mengel, page 175 and "Kentucky Birds" by Barbour, Peterson, Rust, Shadowen and Whitt, page 10. This sighting reaffirms my opinion that many species that are seldom seen may prove to be more common as more observers take to the field — A. L. (BERT) POWELL, Owensboro Area Museum, 2829 S. Griffith Avenue, Owensboro 42301.

RECORD BREEDING AGE FOR FEMALE STARLINGS

Several accounts of age and survival rates of Starlings have been published (Klimkiewicz *et al.* J. Field Ornithol. 54(3): 287-294, 1983; Stewart, N.A. Bird Bander 3(3): 93-94, 1978; Burt and Giltz, EBBA News 36(4): 224-226, 1973 and Frankhauser, Bird Banding 42(1): 36-42, 1971). However, there have been no records of older females that were definitely breeding. Kessel (Am. Midl. Nat. 58:257-331, 1957) reported a female that had nested four years in the same area, but no reference was made to the age of the bird.

On 10 December 1977 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) placed band number 772-57113 on an unknown-aged female Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), taken from a decoy trap at the Western Kentucky University Farm, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The bird was retrapped in a nest-box trap at the same location on 7 May 1985 while incubating five eggs. The calculated age of at least seven years, eleven months apparently establishes the maximum breeding age for female Starlings to date. Based on analyses of bird-banding records (1933-1981), this also sets a longevity record in

Kentucky for a female Starling captured and recovered in the same 10-minute block. Only one other female this old has been reported in the state (Bird Banding Laboratory Records).

From 1933 to 1981, 4 (1.1%) of the 373 Starlings recaptured in Kentucky have fallen within an age of 7+ years or older; the oldest bird being 8.3 years of age (Bird Banding Laboratory Records). Nationwide 1.2% of the Starling recaptures from 1924 to 1978 occurred in this age group or older (derived from Bird Banding Laboratory record analyses by Richard Dolbeer, USFWS) with the oldest bird recorded at 15.3 years (Klimkiewicz *et al.* J. Field Ornithol. 54(3): 287-294, 1983). — SHIRLEY K. TIMBROOK, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Wildlife Research Center, Kentucky Research Station, 334 15th Street, Bowling Green 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

1985 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

Forms for the Mid-winter Bird Count have been mailed. If you have not received them or you wish to participate as a compiler, please contact the editor. All birds recorded must be within a 15-mile diameter circle between December 18 and January 5. Reports of extraordinary sightings must be accompanied by verification forms which will be provided to each compiler.

MOVING?

If you are moving or changing address, please notify the Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer in order that the mailing of the Kentucky Warbler may be carried out expeditiously. Thank you.

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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 62

FEBRUARY, 1986

NO. 1



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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson

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Vice-President Jim William, Lexington

Corr. Sec.-Treasurer Harriet Korfhage
2001 Glenview, Louisville, Ky. 40222

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| Dennis Sandlin, Hazard | 1985-1987 |

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

Editor B. R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.,
Bowling Green 42101

Assistant Editor Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green

Editorial Advisory Board

Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm

Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

OUR COVER

We thank Bert Powell for our cover photograph of some of our dedicated birders at the K.O.S. fall meeting held at Pine Mountain State Resort Park.

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1985

ANNE L. STAMM

The weather in the fall of 1985 was similar throughout the state: rainfall was above normal for the months of August, October and November. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal for August and September. On August 2 the temperature hit a low of 57 degrees at Lexington, 60 degrees at Louisville and 59 the following day at both locations. October had 18 days with the temperature above normal. November also had a few unusually warm days such as a high of 78 degrees on November 19 at Paducah where it tied a record and it was 77 degrees at Louisville. In sharp contrast November was also the dreariest month on record.

The August cold fronts triggered an early start to the fall passerine migration, although the season was best characterized by a number of species lingering beyond normal departure dates. Many migrants took advantage of the mild fall and remained well into late October and November. The winter finch flight was poor except for Evening Grosbeaks. The few rarities included a *Plegadis* Ibis, Laughing Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake and Red Crossbill.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons were present in about normal numbers with a peak of 35 at Six-mile Island in mid-November (BPB), 23 at Lexington Reservoir (hereafter L. R.), November 20 (BA) and 11 at Lake Pewee, November 19 (JH). Pied-billed Grebes were widely distributed with a concentration of 73 at Lake Pewee (JH) and 41 at L. R. (BA). Horned Grebes were in low numbers and reported from five locations; highest count was 23 birds at Louisville on November 22 (LR). Double-crested Cormorants were above normal in numbers with a high count of 55 birds at Six-mile Island on November 25 (BPB). They were reported from Smithland Dam, Ghent, Lake #9, Lexington, Falls of the Ohio (hereafter Falls), and at Dix Dam ranging in dates from August 13 through November (m.ob.).

Hérons through Ibises — Great Blue Herons were more numerous than in the fall of 1984; highest counts included 36 at Jonathan Creek, September 23 (MM, CP); 75 at Lake #9 on October 20 (BPB); 23 at Silo Overlook on October 22 (S, DS, FS); and 28 at L. R. on November 20 (BA). One to four Great Egrets were present at the Falls from August 25-October 15 (BS, BPB); one to nine at Jonathan Creek (MM, CP) September 5-9; 13 at Lake #9 on October 21 (S, DS, FS); 10 at Silo Overlook on October 20 (BPB), seven there on October 21 (DS, S, FS); singles at Dover, Mason County, October 13 and at Clark Fish Hatchery (hereafter C. F. H.) from October 4-25 (FB). A single Snowy Egret was present at the Falls on August 2-9 (LR, BPB) and on September 9 (LR); three at Lake #9 on August 11 and 19 on September 1 (BPB, R. Cicerello). Little Blue Herons were widespread: four to nine immatures were observed in the vicinity of the Falls from August 9-30 (LR, BS, BPB) and last noted there on September 23 (BPB), 18 at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on August 11, two at Lentz Pond mid-August (BPB); singles at C. F. H. August 23 (FB) and at L. R. September 20 to October 1 (BA); an

adult at Lake #9 on October 21 established a late date (S, DS, FS). Single Cattle Egrets were reported in Jefferson County on November 14 (AS) and Livingston County, November 16 (*vide* CP). Numbers of Green-backed Herons were low except at C. F. H. where 64 were present on August 24 and one lingered until October 21 (FB). Black-crowned Night Herons left the Falls on October 21 (BPB) and at L. R. on October 22 (BA); four immatures were still present at Lake Barkley at Silo Overlook on the latter date (S, FS). Yellow-crowned Night Herons left earlier than usual at Lexington and Louisville. A *Plegadis* Ibis at C. F. H. on October 25 represented the first record for this part of the state (FB).

Waterfowl—The only Tundra Swans reported were 19 birds in flight along the Ohio River near Burlington, Boone County on November 23 (LMc). Three Snow Geese had arrived at BWMA on September 19, 21 on October 20, but 3,500 by November 22 (CW). Canada Geese were first noticed on September 8 when a flock of eight flew overhead in Shelby County (DN); five had reached BWMA on September 19, numbers increased to 3,000 by October 17, 8,500 by November 22, but 17,500 on December 3 (CW); smaller flocks of 13 to 45 birds were also seen at Kentucky Dam (S, *et al.*), Lexington (BA) and South Louisville (WJ). Ducks were slow in arriving from the north and few large rafts were seen with the exception of those at BWMA and only 5,000 were there by November 22 (CW). Wood Ducks were in low numbers with the exception of the 225 at Honker Lake, September 1 (BPB, R. Cicerello). Other dabbling ducks were in modest numbers: Green-winged Teal, 40 at Mayfair Basins (BPB), American Black Duck, 100 at Cave Hill Cemetery Lake (S, FS), 60 at the Falls (BPB), Mallards, 125 at Cave Hill Cemetery Lake (S, FS), 190 at the Falls (BPB) and 70 Blue-winged Teal at Jonathan Creek (MM). A single Gadwall was present with Mallards on the Mayfair Basins on August 30 (BPB); small numbers were also observed at the Falls (BS, BPB), L. R. (BA), Lake Pewee (JH) and Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake (BBC). Canvasbacks and Redheads were unusually scarce. Ring-necked Ducks were down in numbers at Lake Pewee (JH). A few Greater Scaup were reported: three at L. R. on October 22 (BA); singles at Oldham County Park Lake, October 27 (DN), at the Falls, October 29, November 3, but 10 there November 25 (BPB). Few observers mentioned Lesser Scaup, but 50 were recorded at L. R. on October 20 (BA) and a high count of 375 at Louisville, November 3 (BPB). A single male Oldsquaw was seen at Louisville on November 6 (LR, BPB) as was a White-winged Scoter on November 4 (BPB). Black Scoters were observed five times on the Ohio River at Louisville from October 28 to November 27, with a high count of 11 on the former date (BPB, LR, *et al.*). Also, a single Surf Scoter was present at L. R. on October 22 (BA). More Hooded Mergansers were reported than usual: seven near Danville on November 23 (FL), a high of 18 at L. R., November 25 (BA), a peak of 14 at Louisville on November 22 (BPB) and 300 at Honker Lake in Land Between the Lakes, November 17 (BPB, D. Ebel). Ruddy Ducks showed up at six locations, but only in small numbers, with the exception of 81 at Lake Pewee (JH).

Raptors—Hawk migration was poor this autumn. Turkey Vultures were migrating on November 8 when 166 were counted at Cumberland

Gap (BA); smaller groups of 35 and 40 were reported at Petersburg and Williamstown, Boone County on August 26 and September 22, respectively (LMc). There were many reports of one to two Ospreys between August 25 and November 23 at nine locations (m.ob.), with three of the sightings at Cumberland Gap (BA, KOS). A total of 15 Bald Eagles had reached BWMA by November 30 (CW); singles were at Cumberland Gap September 21 (BF, KOS) and 22 (S, CS, DS). A Northern Goshawk over east Louisville on October 31 was well documented (DN). Fair numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks were observed over Cumberland Gap: seven birds on September 7, 12 on September 17 (BA), 10+ on September 21-22 (KOS) and 10 on November 8 (BA). Single Cooper's Hawks were reported from Grayson, Meade, Kenton, Boone, Jefferson, Oldham, Fayette and Bell Counties (m.ob.). Although Red-shouldered Hawks remained scarce in some sections of the state, a total of 16 was observed at Cumberland Gap on November 8 (BA). Fewer Broad-winged Hawks were reported than last year. The high count was 64 at Cumberland Gap on September 17 (BA). Few observers mentioned the Red-tailed Hawk, but the species was seen frequently in all sections of the state. An influx was noted in mid-November in Clark County and 48 was the high count at Cumberland Gap on November 8 (BA). The two Rough-legged Hawks (light phase) in Clark County on November 19 were the only ones reported (BA). At least two Peregrine Falcons were present at the Falls: one on August 25-27 and another October 1-17 (BPB) and again on October 25 (BPB, LR); one at Cumberland Gap, September 22 (S, CS, DS, FS).

Galliformes—Two flocks of Wild Turkeys (12 in one and 20 in the other) were seen in Cumberland County in late November (*vide* RS). American Coot concentrations of 2150 at Lake Pewee (JH) and 635 at Louisville (BPB) in November, were of interest. Sandhill Cranes were reported from six locations with the earliest and latest over the Glasgow area on October 16 and November 30, respectively (RS); largest flock was 35-40 birds over Falls of the Rough (KC).

Shorebirds—The shorebird migration was not very exciting and numbers were low with the exception of Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Black-bellied and Lesser Golden Plovers were scarce: one to four of the former at Louisville from August 30 to early October (LR, BS, BPB); two to five at Jonathan Creek September 13 (MM) to October 20 (BBC); only singles of the latter species at Jonathan Creek (MM) and C. F. H. (BA). A single Piping Plover was present at the Falls from August 12-16 (m.ob.). Flocks of 100 to 150 Killdeer were present at Jonathan Creek (MM) and at Louisville (BPB). The American Avocet on August 8 (BPB) and the three August 16 at the Falls were noteworthy (m.ob.). Unusual records of the Willet included 23 at the Falls on August 5 and four at Mayfair Basins, August 16 (BPB). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs did not remain as late as usual and numbers were low for the former species and maximum numbers for the latter included 40 at Jacobson Park on October 1 (BA) and 100 at Louisville, August 7 (BPB). The high count for the Spotted Sandpiper was 20 birds at both Pulaski County Park (JE1) and the Falls (BPB) during August. Sanderlings were present but in small numbers: one to three birds at Mayfair Basins (DN), the

Falls (BPB), Kentucky Lake, Jonathan mud-flats (MM) and C. F. H. (BA), ranging in dates from August 11 to September 23. Small numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were observed at Jonathan Creek (MM), C. F. H. (BA), a peak of 200 at the Falls and a similar number in a flock of 300 peeps at Lake #9 (BPB). A Western Sandpiper on September 12 near Danville was the first for that area (FL); other sightings included one to seven at the Falls (BPB, BA); three at C. F. H. and eight at Lake #9 (BPB). Fair numbers of Least Sandpipers were much above those of last year: high counts of 40-50 at Jonathan Creek on September 5 (MM); 50 at the Falls on August 7 (BPB): 300 peeps, mostly Least at Lake #9 on October 20 (BPB). The only Baird's Sandpipers reported were from the Falls on September 1 and 7 (BA, DN) and Jacobson Park on September 6 (BA). Maximum counts of Pectoral Sandpipers included 100 at the Falls on August 16-17, 50 at Lake #9 on September 1 (BPB) and 30 at Jacobson Park on October 1 (BA). Dunlin were reported from five locations with a high count of 60+ at Jacobson Park on October 20 (BA), 35 at Jonathan Creek on the same date (BPB) and 12 at Silo Overlook on October 22 (S, FS, DS). A single Stilt Sandpiper was first reported at the Falls on August 4 (DN) with a high of 10 in mid-August (BPB); two to six at Jonathan Creek on August 31-September 23 (MM), Jacobson Park from August 31-October 20 (BA); and a high of 38 at Lake #9 on September 1 with eight there October 20 (BPB). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight was poor with only one to four birds at the Falls between August 18 and September 7 (BPB, DN); no others reported. One to six Short-billed Dowitchers were at the Falls intermittently between August 5 to September 9 (BPB, BA); two at Mayfair Basins on August 11 (DN). The several sightings of dowitcher species at Jonathan Creek from August 31 to September 23 probably were Short-billed (MM). A single Long-billed, a rare transient, was heard and seen at C. F. H. on September 22 as were the 10 birds at Lake #9 on October 20 (BPB). Two Wilson Phalaropes were noted at Mayfair Basins on August 11 (DN) and 30 (BPB); one at the Falls on September 1 (JEL, BA), and again on September 4-6 (BPB); two at Jonathan Creek, September 5 (MM).

Gulls and Terns — Unusual records of the Laughing Gull included one at Kentucky Lake near Hamlin on August 17 (MM, J. T. Erwin), singles at the Falls on August 7 and 24 and at Barkley Dam, August 31-September 1 (BPB and the later record with R. Cicerello). A Franklin's Gull was seen above Kentucky Dam on November 17 (BPB, D. Ebel). A single Bonaparte's Gull appeared at Kentucky Dam on August 11 and at Barkley Dam on August 31, but only small numbers had arrived by the end of November: 35 was the high count at Louisville on November 25 (BPB). Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were present at various locations by late November, but numbers were not high, although 65 of the former species had reached Barkley Dam by August 31 (BPB), but few could be found on October 19 (S, DS, FS). A Black-legged Kittiwake was seen at the Kentucky Dam on November 17, making the third consecutive year that the species has been there (BPB, D. Ebel). Caspian Terns were found at only two locations: 12 birds near Hamlin on August 25 (MM) and three to seven at the Falls from August 14-17 (BS, BPB, LR). Common Terns were present in small numbers at Jonathan Creek (MM), Pulaski County Park (JEL) and Louisville (BPB). Forster's Terns visited the Falls on

seven days between August 7 and September 5 with a peak of 14 on August 7 and 16 (BPB) and a single bird at Pulaski County Park on August 25 (JEL). The latter record was of interest since few sightings have been reported from this area. There were few reports of the Least Tern; one near Hamlin (MM) and two at the Falls on August 17 (BPB); young being fed by adults (20 birds total) on August 10-11 at Lake #9 (BPB). Flights of Black Terns have been scarce in recent years, but fair numbers were observed this autumn. The species was seen at the Falls on 11 dates between August 6 and September 6 with peaks of 14 and 22 birds, and 25 at Towhead Island on August 16, one at Jonathan Creek, September 1 (BPB); one at Pulaski County Park on August 25 (JEL).

Cuckoos through Swifts — Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from three locations: one at C. F. H. on August 18 (BA), one at the Falls on August 20 and September 25 (BPB) and one near Lake Pewee on October 14 (JH). A single Yellow-billed Cuckoo lingered at the Falls until October 17 (DN) and a pair there on October 29 (BPB). Common Nighthawk flights of 100 or more were seen August 25-31 with a maximum count of 275 at Eubank (JEL). Chimney Swifts were widely reported in October with 1,000 observed at the Falls in early October (BPB) and the latest sighting was at Bowling Green on October 20 (BF).

Woodpeckers through Flycatchers — Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce at Danville unlike the fall of 1984 (FL). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from the Falls on September 13 (BPB), Creason Park on September 15 (DN) and Jacobson Park September 24 (BA). Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were identified at Lexington Cemetery September 2 (BA) and at Shippingport Island September 6 and 25 (BPB). An unusually late Acadian Flycatcher was calling on Shippingport Island on October 15 (BPB). A Great Crested Flycatcher was still present at Lexington Cemetery on September 27 (BA). There were no concentrations of swallows except for the "hundreds of various species" at Jonathan Creek on August 23 (MM). The majority of Purple Martins left early, but one lingered at Lexington until September 23 (BA). Eleven Tree Swallows were observed near Danville on October 7 (FL), a later straggler was seen at L. R. on November 5 (BA). Also, three Barn Swallows were noted at Lake #9 on October 20 (BPB).

Ravens through Shrikes — A Common Raven was seen at Cumberland Gap on September 21 and November 18 (BA). Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely distributed and fairly common; earliest arrival date at Falls of the Rough on September 16 (KC). A House Wren at Lexington on November 18 was rather late (BA). Interesting records were the two Sedge Wrens heard in Fulton County August 11 and six birds there on September 1 (BPB). Both kinglets were about normal. Eastern Bluebirds were "definitely" down from 1984 at Danville (FL); some 50 were seen on the Abell Farm in Oldham County on the morning of October 12 (S, BBC). The major flight of Cedar Waxwings in Fayette County was during October 3-5 (BA); numbers peaked at Madisonville on October 19 with 63 birds (JH). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Fulton, Hickman, Fayette, Boyle and Spencer Counties.

Virco through Warblers — A Solitary Vireo at Lexington Cemetery on November 18 established our latest date (BA). A few Philadelphia Vireos were reported from September 14 to 27 at Clark Hatchery (BA), Pine Mountain (KOS) and Falls of the Ohio (BPB). Warblers seemed to trickle through in most areas with the greatest movement in mid-October. Some species lingered longer than usual. The latest Tennessee Warbler was at Lexington on November 5 (BA). Single Orange-crowned Warblers were observed at Otter Creek Park, September 29 (S, DS) and at Shippingport Island, October 15, 22 and November 5 (BPB). An early Nashville Warbler was noted at the Falls on August 20 (BPB) while normal numbers were observed through October 21 at Burlington (LMc). Other late warblers included a Magnolia at Lexington Cemetery on October 20 (BA) and a Cape May at Eubank on October 24 (JEl). The only Black-throated Blue Warbler reported was one at Burlington on October 14 (LMc). Some 45 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were seen on the Abell Farm, Oldham County, October 12 (S, BBC). The mild October weather was responsible for the late warbler records such as the Prairie on Abell Farm (BBC) and Shippingport Island (BPB) on October 12 and 18, respectively, Palm in Fayette County, November 25 (BA), Bay-breasted at Burlington, November 9, 15, and 16 (LMc). The latter species established a late state record. Four reports of single Blackpoll Warblers ranging from September 13 to October 1 were received without documentations. These records may be valid, but details are lacking for specific identification. The species is very rare here in fall. Single Mourning Warblers were seen at Shippingport Island on September 25 and 27 (BPB); also a Connecticut Warbler reported there September 20 (full details lacking). A Wilson's Warbler at Eubank on August 16 was an early record (JEl).

Dickcissel through Juncos — A Dickcissel on the Abell Farm, Oldham County on October 12 was a rather late straggler (S, BBC). Chipping Sparrows were still present at Burlington on November 10 (LMc) and a flock of 100 at Lexington Cemetery on November 13 (BA). A Grasshopper Sparrow lingered in the Danville area until October 26 (FL). A few Lincoln Sparrows were reported from the Falls of the Rough, Shippingport Island and Mayfair Basins, but none were early or remained late (KC, BPB). White-throated Sparrow migration was noted on October 20 at Bowling Green where 50 were seen (BF). There was some decline in numbers of the White-crowned Sparrow in Madisonville (JH) and in some sections of east Louisville (S). Dark-eyed Juncos arrived later than normal and were first sighted at Lexington (BA) and Bowling Green (BF) on October 20.

Blackbirds, Finches — Bobolinks were last reported on September 27 at Masterson Station Park (BA). Rusty Blackbirds were first observed near Kentucky Dam on October 19 (S, FS, DS) and at Jonathan Creek on October 21 (BBC). The Purple Finch flight was not impressive and although two birds were present at Eubank on September 29 (JEl), most observations were in November. House Finches continued to be numerous. A male Red Crossbill was noted at Lexington Cemetery on November 18 (BA). Pine Siskins were in low numbers. There were eight reports of the Evening Grosbeak with the earliest at Eubank — a flock of 31 birds on October 27; the highest count was 75 birds a few miles north of Murray (WB).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), Wally Brines (WB), Katharine Clay (KC), Nancy Davidson (ND), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Ed Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Frederick W. Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Bernice Shannon (BS), A. Schrock (AS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Susie (CS), Margaret Sullivan (MS), Charles Wilkins (CW), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS).

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1985-1986

Reports of 23 counts were received from across the state. A total of 117 species was observed on count days, 109 of which are represented on the table. Those species represented by a single bird observed only on one count are not included on this table. These include: a Snow Goose, a Least Sandpiper, a Glaucous Gull (Land Between the Lakes), a female Northern Oriole (Yelvington), a Mute Swan, an American Woodcock (Otter Creek Park, a Merlin and a Vesper Sparrow (Frankfort). Only seven species were recorded on all counts and 13 species were noted only on a single count. The additional sightings of an immature Golden Eagle (Land Between the Lakes), a Harris Sparrow (Marion), two Short-eared Owls and a Long-eared Owl (Sorgho; unverified) during the count period brought the species total to 121.

Although not unusually so, this December was colder than last. The much colder weather and snow cover experienced to the north seemed to push many of the northern finch species into the Kentucky census areas. Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and American Tree Sparrows were more numerous this year compared with last, as were Red-tailed Hawks. The decline in Eastern Bluebird numbers (735) to pre-1982 levels was disappointing as was the absence of Wild Turkey sightings in Mammoth Cave National Park. The slow but steady increase in the Common Raven population noted in eastern Kentucky was encouraging. The repetition of last year's unusual recordings of a Merlin and a female Northern Oriole was most interesting. Also of interest was the inverse relationship between House Finch and House Sparrow numbers. House Finches increased in number from 357 last year to 984 this year, whereas, House Sparrows decreased in number from 15,429 last year to 4,580 this year. This trend is consistent with the trend observed in other areas recently invaded by House Finches.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms on unusual sightings. Thanks are also extended for the comments regarding unusual weather conditions, habitat, and interesting sightings.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 28%, overgrown and cultivated fields 20%, residential and small business 12%. Dec. 21; 5:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 12 to 26°F; wind SW, 1-3 m.p.h. Bays and ponds were frozen with patches of open water. Sixteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 51 (14.5 on foot, 36.5 by car). Total party miles 493.5 (21.5 on foot, 472 by car). Total species 90; total individuals 812,824.

The small number of waterfowl (1,322) had considerable variety (17 species) which may be the pattern for future years of declining populations. The few eagles reported may be the result of the frozen bays which have shifted many of them further south. The most dramatic finds were the Glaucous Gull, the Tundra Swan and the Ruffed Grouse. The gull was found on the lake below the Silo Overlook (BPB, DN, RC, S. Wash.). The Tundra Swan was found at Jonathan Creek Bay (MM) and was studied again in detail almost in the same spot (MM, CP) the following day. The Ruffed Grouse, a true novelty and the first seen in the area for undetermined years, was tracked down by radio by Rick Maura, a University of Kentucky graduate student studying the Ruffed Grouse restocking program; it was closely observed by Maura and S. Will. Less exciting but nearly so were the Least Sandpiper and 11 Dunlin found at Jonathan Creek Bay (MM) and the Pectoral Sandpipers observed closely and carefully at the end of Craven's Creek road (CP, SL, CM). Figures for Rock Doves and Starlings are estimates of the Starling roost at Kentucky Lake Dam and the Rock Dove populations at Kentucky Lake and Barkley Dams. —George Beringer, Wally Brines, Richard Cassell, Melissa Easley, Betty Gore, Sally Leedom, Mike Miller, Carl Mowery, Jr., Carl Mowery III, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Clell Peterson (compiler), Ed Ray, Steve Washburn, Stephen White, Stephanie Will.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat woods, scrub, open farm and creeks. Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 28 to 35°F; wind N, 0-10 m.p.h. Three observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24 (18 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 20 (6 on foot, 14 by car). Total species 40; total individuals 2,928.

Numbers of species and individuals seem to be continuing to decline. —C. L. Frazer (compiler), Jim Frazer and Marie Frazer.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center KY 279 and Audubon Parkway (Wilson Residence). Habitat fields, grain, meadows, small streams, dense woods, open woods, Ohio and Green Rivers. D28; 8:00 am. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 22 to 35°F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 47 (30 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles 114 (12 on foot, 102 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 3,397.

Mike Brown, Sister Casimer Czurlis, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, John Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Joyce Porter, Wynema Sims, Tommy Stevenson, Ed Wilson (compiler), Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center U.S. Hwy. 60 and State Hwy. 405 at Maceo KY.) Habitat Ohio River bottoms,

Carpenter and Kingfish Lakes, two farms with woods and fields, Pup Creek bottoms and feeders. Dec. 21; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 22 to 36°F; wind 4-8 m.p.h. There was intermittent sunshine. Thirteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 36 (30 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 34 (12 on foot, 22 by car). Total species 54; total individuals 2,231.

As in the past few years there has been a great lack of waterfowl. Also missing was the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hermit Thrush and Eastern Phoebe which we used to find in fair numbers. Common Grackles and Eastern Meadowlarks were rare.

Noteworthy is the finding of a female Northern (Baltimore) Oriole on the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Ray. The feeders at the Ray's and Powell's have always produced large numbers of species and individuals.—Joey Brown, Mike Brown, Tony Eaden, Tom Hicks, John Humprey, Ray Iles, Don Lacy, Bill Perkins, Bert Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Roseann Radzelovage, Marvin Ray and Maudie Ray.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, field, creeks and pond. Dec. 30; 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 15 to 45°F; wind SE, 0-15 m.p.h. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 7 (6 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles 13 (8 on foot, 5 by car). Total species 21; total individuals 133. Roseann Radzelovage (compiler), Walter Radzelovage and David Sanders.

BOWLING GREEN (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 21; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 12 to 31°F; wind S, 0-10 m.p.h. Standing water was frozen. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 18 (15 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 109 (8 on foot, 101 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 4,452.

Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason, Bill and Ruth Mathes, Simeon Pickard, H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 22; 6:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 28 to 43°F; wind S, 10-15 m.p.h. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 25 (15 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles 93 (11 on foot, 82 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 2,474.

Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Marquita Gillenwater, Jeff Jones, Ron Lewis, Wayne Mason, Joey McCombs and H. E. Shadowen.

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Barren County courthouse.) Habitat as described previously. Dec. 27; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 33 to 45°F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Six observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 43.75 (31.75 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 123 (13 on foot, 110 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 3,126.

Mrs. Marquita Gillenwater, Mrs. Howard Malcolm Jones, Wayne Mason (compiler), Mrs. Todd Moore, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three miles northeast of Munfordville, KY. at the intersection of Gaddock

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1985-1986

| | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGOH | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE N. PK. | GLASGOW | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | SOMERSET | PINE MOUNTAIN SET. SCH. | ROWAN COUNTY | PERRY COUNTY | RED BIRD |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| COMMON LOON | 2 | | | | | | | * | 4 | | | 9 | * | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | 5 | | |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | 13 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 6 | | 2 | | * | | | | | 10 | | |
| HORNED GREBE | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 14 | | | | | 1 | 3 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 3 | | 18 | | |
| BLACK-CR. NIGHT HERON | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TUNDRA SWAN | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | 800 | | 70 | 50 | * | 9 | | 94 | 50 | 164 | 248 | 638 | 724 | 203 | 75 | 102 | 318 | 32 | | | 10 | * | |
| WOOD DUCK | | | | | | | | | | | | 26 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | 146 | | | | | 7 | 75 | 12 | | | 3 | 123 | 47 | 16 | 9 | 3 | 45 | | 12 | | 5 | | |
| MALLARD | 831 | | | | | 49 | 225 | 54 | * | 30 | 27 | 1243 | 162 | 134 | | 289 | 147 | 20 | 50 | | 30 | | |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 16 | | | | | | | |
| GADWALL | 27 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 3 | | | | 9 | 2 | 1 | | | 15 | | |
| AMERICAN WIDGEON | 5 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | * | | |
| CANVASBACK | 5 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 4 | | | | * | | | | | 1 | | |
| REDHEAD | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 14 | * | | | | | | | | | | |
| GREATER SCAUP | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 3 | | | | 2 | | | | * | 15 | | | | 10 | | |
| LESSER SCAUP | 2 | | | 1 | | | | * | | | | 45 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | 86 | | | | | | | 5 | | | 1 | 40 | 1 | | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| BUFFLEHEAD | 551 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 22 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|--|
| HOODED MERGANSER | 163 | | | | 5 | | 7 | * | | 5 | | 76 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMMON MERGANSER | 24 | | | * | | | 8 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RED-BR. MERGANSER | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RUDDY DUCK | | | | | | | 3 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BLACK VULTURE | | | | | | | 12 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 38 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TURKEY VULTURE | | 2 | 1 | 7 | 20 | * | 1 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 11 | 14 | 52 | * | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| BALD EAGLE | 14 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN HARRIER | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | * | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| SHARP-SHINNED HAWK | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| COOPER'S HAWK | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 1 | * | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| RED-SHOULDERED HAWK | 7 | | 2 | | 1 | | | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| RED-TAILED HAWK | 32 | 3 | 21 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 27 | 46 | 60 | 45 | 38 | 34 | 46 | 70 | 32 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | |
| ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| AMERICAN KESTREL | | 3 | 29 | 8 | 12 | | | 9 | 8 | 14 | 52 | 83 | 23 | 19 | 20 | 50 | 60 | 61 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| RUFFED GROUSE | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| WILD TURKEY | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| NORTHERN BOBWHITE | | 40 | 28 | * | * | | | 10 | * | 23 | 1 | 6 | | 19 | | | | | | | | | |
| AMERICAN COOT | 10 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 7 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 6 | 5 | 13 | | | | 10 | |
| KILLDEER | 19 | 1 | | 2 | 6 | | | * | 1 | 8 | 51 | 3 | 23 | | 31 | 24 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 22 | 10 | | |
| COMMON SNIPE | * | | | | 1 | | | | | | 8 | 6 | 2 | 13 | | 11 | | | 3 | | | | |
| PECTORAL SANDPIPER | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DUNLIN | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BONAPARTE'S GULL | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| RING-BILLED GULL | 3500 | | | | 183 | | | | | 51 | | | | | | * | 3 | | | | 28 | | |
| HERRING GULL | 300 | | | | 102 | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | 4 | | | | 2 | | |
| ROCK DOVE | 150 | 58 | 8 | 140 | 47 | | | | 5 | 86 | 132 | 1005 | 50 | 71 | 5 | 122 | 213 | 80 | 200 | 48 | 6 | 70 | |
| MOURNING DOVE | 18 | 36 | 462 | 46 | 1 | 112 | 3 | 50 | 20 | 206 | 241 | 515 | 129 | 248 | 4 | 257 | 167 | 362 | 14 | 68 | 30 | | |
| COMMON BARN OWL | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| EASTERN SCREECH OWL | 2 | | | | | | | | * | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | | | * | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| GREAT HORNED OWL | 5 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| BARRED OWL | 7 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| BELTED KINGFISHER | 12 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 29 | | 14 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | |
| BELT-HEADED WOODPECKER | 36 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | | 1 | | | |

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1985-1986

| | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | VELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE N. PK. | GLASGOW | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | SOMERSET | PINE MOUNTAIN SET. SCH. | ROMAN COUNTY | PERRY COUNTY | RED BIRD |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| RED-B. WOODPECKER | 37 | 14 | 41 | 21 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 10 | 29 | 39 | 85 | 7 | 38 | 22 | 35 | 31 | 22 | 3 | 4 | 6 | | |
| YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER | 4 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | * | 6 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| DOWNY WOODPECKER | 31 | 14 | 12 | 20 | 19 | 7 | 18 | 4 | 23 | 44 | 139 | 4 | 55 | 23 | 75 | 21 | 27 | 2 | 24 | 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| HAIRY WOODPECKER | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| NORTHERN FLICKER | 50 | 3 | 18 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 7 | * | 39 | 50 | 79 | 5 | 35 | 20 | 22 | 17 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | |
| PILEATED WOODPECKER | 33 | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 14 | 1 | 10 | 26 | 21 | * | 11 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | |
| EASTERN PHOEBE | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| HORNED LARK | 1 | | 59 | 650 | | 360 | | 1 | | 97 | 96 | 1635 | * | 6 | 47 | 326 | | | | | | | |
| BLUE JAY | 261 | 225 | 74 | 35 | 13 | 24 | 51 | 80 | 18 | 231 | 282 | 361 | 13 | 136 | 153 | 65 | 81 | 128 | 9 | 22 | 33 | 50 | 2 |
| AMERICAN CROW | 116 | 32 | 707 | 51 | 10 | 38 | 81 | 93 | 33 | 217 | 295 | 580 | 30 | 246 | 182 | 14000+ | 155 | 142 | 17 | 69 | 19 | 20 | 33 |
| COMMON RAVEN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | | | |
| CAROLINA CHICKADEE | 49 | 14 | 35 | 49 | 5 | 26 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 73 | 195 | 502 | 14 | 114 | 55 | 192 | 91 | 70 | 11 | 81 | 31 | 3 | 35 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 30 | 12 | 20 | 32 | 3 | 17 | 32 | 37 | 9 | 50 | 112 | 261 | 2 | 55 | 20 | 81 | 57 | 68 | 14 | 35 | 36 | 4 | 15 |
| RED-BR. NUTHATCH | 2 | | | 3 | | 4 | 4 | 4 | * | | 3 | 55 | | 7 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH | 14 | | 13 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 54 | 45 | | 13 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 14 | 2 | 21 | 5 | 1 | 14 |
| BROWN CREEPER | 4 | | 1 | 5 | | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 14 | | 11 | 1 | 17 | 3 | | | 8 | 1 | | |
| CAROLINA WREN | 16 | | 9 | 6 | | 15 | 3 | 19 | 3 | 11 | 32 | 67 | * | 66 | 19 | 31 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 23 | 3 | 2 | |
| WINTER WREN | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 | 4 | 4 | * | 2 | 2 | 7 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET | 17 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 4 | 26 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 43 | 16 | | 26 | 25 | 49 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 10 | |
| RUBY-CR. KINGLET | 6 | 1 | | 2 | | 2 | 4 | | | | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 9 | | |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD | 21 | 2 | 7 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 8 | 105 | 156 | 39 | 4 | 54 | 59 | 74 | 45 | 87 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 1 | |
| HERMIT THRUSH | 3 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 4 | 12 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 1 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|--------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|--------|--------|------|------|
| AMERICAN ROBIN | 89 | 62 | 182 | 9 | 16 | 17 | 701 | 85 | 80 | 403 | 548 | 727 | 11 | 714 | 1314 | 117 | 91 | 45 | 11 | 26 | 1 |
| N. MOCKINGBIRD | 8 | 15 | 27 | 13 | 31 | 2 | 29 | * | * | 23 | 57 | 136 | 5 | 20 | 13 | 35 | 30 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| BROWN THRASHER | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 |
| WATER PIPIT | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 5 | | | | | |
| CEDAR WAXWING | 119 | | 15 | 12 | 12 | 369 | | | | 27 | 100 | 136 | | 16 | 9 | 121 | | 2 | 15 | 33 | 8 |
| LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 7 | 2 | | | |
| EUROPEAN STARLING | 800000 | 975 | 766 | 200 | 800 | 130 | 755 | 310 | 1506 | 2773 | 4020 | 1075 | 2490 | 674 | 2505 | 3300 | 606 | 52000 | 113 | 165 | 50 |
| YELLOW-R. WARBLER | 6 | | | | 9 | 133 | 23 | 2 | 134 | 103 | 4 | * | 16 | 68 | 25 | 5 | | 4 | | | |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL | 140 | 68 | | 122 | 4 | 123 | 35 | 148 | 20 | 141 | 290 | 962 | 32 | 378 | 90 | 480 | 244 | 173 | 13 | 147 | 45 |
| RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE | 39 | 2 | 2 | 36 | * | 41 | 6 | 36 | 3 | 31 | 29 | 63 | * | 25 | 43 | 20 | 16 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 5 |
| AM. TREE SPARROW | | | | 3 | | | | | | 10 | 10 | 7 | | 25 | 4 | 3 | 8 | | | | |
| FIELD SPARROW | 45 | * | 2 | 25 | 1 | 19 | 15 | 67 | 10 | 88 | 78 | 38 | 11 | 27 | 73 | 8 | 47 | 43 | 86 | | |
| SAVANNAH SPARROW | | | | 4 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 25 | * | | | | |
| FOX SPARROW | 3 | | | 9 | 45 | 3 | 6 | | 4 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 2 | | | | 3 | 3 | | |
| SONG SPARROW | 25 | 1 | 40 | 34 | 3 | 48 | 28 | 108 | 15 | 65 | 164 | 414 | 10 | 282 | 25 | 111 | 88 | 33 | 20 | 41 | 35 |
| SWAMP SPARROW | 31 | | | 1 | 51 | 5 | 18 | | 6 | 9 | 19 | 1 | 20 | 1 | | 10 | 3 | | 3 | 12 | |
| WHITE-THR. SPARROW | 318 | 58 | 35 | 201 | 9 | 117 | 149 | 187 | 23 | 179 | 412 | 591 | * | 337 | 121 | 312 | 219 | 19 | 16 | 39 | 166 |
| WHITE-CR. SPARROW | | 120 | 1 | 130 | 6 | 12 | 4 | | 69 | 23 | 146 | 2 | 18 | 10 | 52 | 101 | 9 | 23 | 101 | 105 | 110 |
| D-EYED JUNCO | 665 | 165 | 23 | 73 | 18 | 47 | 142 | 115 | 12 | 345 | 526 | 464 | 13 | 405 | 251 | 352 | 161 | 148 | 35 | 101 | 105 |
| LAPLAND LONGSPUR | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| RED-W. BLACKBIRD | 53 | 25 | 180 | | 225 | 4 | 11 | 15000 | 12 | 8 | 224 | 51 | 1 | 1 | | 15 | 1 | * | 5000 | 2 | |
| E. MEADOWLARK | 41 | 2 | 28 | 3 | 50 | | 47 | 15 | 94 | 137 | 192 | 12 | 52 | 33 | | 64 | 83 | 11 | 2 | 10 | |
| RUSTY BLACKBIRD | 81 | | | | 10 | | | 1 | 2 | | 1509 | 191 | 50 | | | 4 | 187 | 1000 | | | |
| BREWER'S BLACKBIRD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| COMMON GRACKLE | 150 | 625 | 27 | 2 | 1325 | 20 | 15 | 105000 | 12 | 3 | 29 | 9 | 203 | | | 22 | 344 | 100000 | | | |
| BR.-HEADED COWBIRD | 150 | 8 | | 8 | 283 | 9 | 1 | 30000 | | | 329 | 2 | * | | | 95 | 110 | 1 | 2000 | | |
| PURPLE FINCH | 19 | | | 10 | 7 | 42 | 49 | 6 | 54 | 208 | 19 | 9 | 82 | 105 | | 36 | 35 | 33 | 35 | 10 | 1 |
| HOUSE FINCH | | | | 2 | 55 | | 35 | * | | | 104 | 52 | 36 | | | 182 | 341 | 14 | 50 | 165 | |
| PINE SISKIN | 61 | | | 40 | | | 3 | | | 1 | 10 | 1 | 111 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 12 | |
| AM. GOLDFINCH | 133 | 6 | 34 | 82 | 37 | 29 | 103 | 20 | 191 | 113 | 380 | 58 | 629 | 84 | | 367 | 165 | 165 | 7 | 73 | 56 |
| EVENING GROSBEAK | 5 | | | 40 | | | | * | | 5 | | | | | | | 1 | | 32 | 82 | 1 |
| HOUSE SPARROW | 66 | 325 | 255 | 130 | 30 | 180 | 251 | 12 | 285 | 266 | 851 | 47 | 189 | 144 | | 669 | 637 | 70 | 10 | 26 | 102 |
| DAY OF COUNT | D21 | D29 | D28 | D21 | D30 | D21 | D22 | D27 | D27 | D28 | J1 | D22 | D29 | D28 | J4 | D22 | D21 | D28 | J1 | J4 | J5 |
| NUMBER OF SPECIES | 90 | 40 | 46 | 54 | 21 | 66 | 51 | 68 | 43 | 63 | 72 | 89 | 50 | 68 | 54 | 78 | 72 | 50 | 47 | 41 | 68 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 812824 | 2928 | 3397 | 2231 | 135 | 4452 | 2474 | 3126 | 150747 | 5111 | 8193 | 19394 | 2884 | 7866 | 3801 | 21913 | 8308 | 2577 | 160636 | 1170 | 1601 |
| OBSERVERS | 16 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 19 | 39 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 32 | 29 | 21 | 3 | 12 | 1 |

*Birds observed during count period.

Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat open farmland, 100 acre pond (frozen), river bottoms (Green River), small towns. Dec. 27; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly sunny; temp. 35 to 45°F; wind 20-25 m.p.h. Wind gusty. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10.5 (7 on foot, 3.5 by car). Total party-miles 85 (5 on foot, 80 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 150,747.

Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton and Mitch Sturgeon.

OTTER CREEK PARK (center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 38%, fields and pastures 28%, deciduous wood 18%, creeks, lake and river 12%, town 1%, roadsides 3%. Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to clear. Ponds frozen, Doe Lake and Ohio River open. Fifteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 40 (17 on foot, 23 by car) plus one hour owling. Total party-miles 261 (18 on foot, 243 by car), plus 3 miles owling. Total species 63; total individuals 5,111.

The Common Loon and the Canada Geese set new records for this count, so far as numbers are concerned. The Mute Swan on Doe Lake was a surprise and was gone six days later. The American Woodcock, new for this count, was reported within the park by Doxie Noonan. Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were entirely absent. Both the Carolina Wren and Eastern Bluebird showed declines. White-throated Sparrows were up and White-crowned down from the 1984 count.—Mary B. Bauer, R. Cassell, W. Dahl, R. Games, Smith Hundley, Frank and John Krull, J. Noel, Doxie Noonan, B. Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, Tony Smith, F. W. Stamm and Anne Stamm (compiler).

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 22 to 38°F; wind variable, 0-5 m.p.h. Nineteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 69.5 (25.5 on foot, 35 by car). Total party-miles 338 (18 on foot, 320 by car). Total species 72; individuals 8,193.

Optimal weather conditions and better-than-average coverage resulted in a record total for species. All lakes and ponds were frozen except for one lake warmed by distillery overflow, on which most of the geese, ducks and the Eastern Phoebe were observed. High counts were made for several species including, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Bluebird and Hermit Thrush. — Brad Andres, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane and Pat Bell, Dike Bixler, Roland and Marie Blahnik, George Crabtree, Diane Ebel, Marion Jones, Sarah McClellan, Joan Noel, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, Lawrence Smith and Stephen Washburn.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction Hwys. 42 and 22.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 22; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 26 to 49°F; wind SW, 3-20 m.p.h. Ponds and lakes frozen. Thirty nine observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours 96 (52 on foot, 44 by car). Total party-miles 537 (52 on foot, 485 by car). Total species 89; total individuals 19,384.

Diversity (89 species) was higher than expected, in view of the extremely cold weather the week preceding the count, which resulted in most

lakes and ponds being frozen. Waterfowl diversity was good, and the numbers of Canada Geese were a local high count, and the presence of wintering Black-crowned Night Herons once again was encouraging. Northern birds were also good, especially Horned Larks, again a local high. House Finches continue to increase, as expected. However, no verified rarities were reported.—May Bauer, Don Blackburn, Donald Blackburn, Marie and Ronald Blahnik, K. W. Clay, Diane Ebel, D. L. Garst, Stewart and Mary Ann Jenkins, Brian Johnson, F. H., F. X., John and Mary Krull, Burt Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mark Monroe, K. C. Mudd, Dottie and Janice Muntan, Barry Nichols, Doxie and J. R. Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Jim Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Bob Quaife, Lene Rauth, Carl Schultz, Helga Schutte, Bernice Shannon, L. D. Smith, Tony Smith, Anne and F. W. Stamm, Midge Susie, Stephen Washburn, Julie Wooldridge, Bob Zaremba (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY Hwy. 714.) Habitat farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded and grassland. Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 28 to 36°F; wind S-SW, 0-5 m.p.h. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (1 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 118 (1 on foot, 117 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 2,884.

John Brown, Stephanie Brown, Todd Brown, W. H. Brown (compiler) and Christina Martin.

FRANKFORT (center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 20 to 30°F; wind W-SW, 7-12 m.p.h. Snow cover, .4 inches, water partly open. Fifteen observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours 60 (32 on foot, 28 by car). Total party-miles 316 (33 on foot, 283 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 7,866.

This is one of the higher counts for Frankfort. Canada Geese were reported by several parties. Jim Rettig found the Red-breasted Merganser and Horned Grebes on the Kentucky River. W. H. Brown observed the female Merlin perched for a long interval. Sparrows, except for White-crowned Sparrows, were in good numbers with the unexpected Vesper Sparrow reported by Jim Rettig. House Finches have greatly increased in the Frankfort area.—W. H. Brown, Rose Canon, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Howard Jones (compiler), Jeff and Marla Jones, Margaret LaFontaine, Christina Martin, James Rettig, Teresa Rollins, Jim Williams, Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1977.) Jan. 4; 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 29 to 40°F; wind E-SE, 5-12 m.p.h. Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 27 (12 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 188 (11 on foot, 177 by car). Total species 54; total individuals 3,801.

This is the highest species count for the Kleber-Owen County area. This is probably the most representative count of the area as we had the most complete circle of coverage by a very able group of birders. Robins were plentiful due to the cedar berry crop. Durell observed the Canada

Geese over the Kleber area. Screech Owls were found in response to calling. All still water was frozen so the lakes and ponds were empty. We failed to get Killdeer and Mourning Dove numbers were low.—Brad Andres, Richard Cassell, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Sherri Evans, Howard Jones (compiler), Sarah McClellan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., James Rettig, Julie Smoak, Jim Williams and Tim Williams.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 37°55' N, 84°28' W, East Hickman on Bates Creek.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 22; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 2 to 18°F; wind 0-5 m.p.h. Thirty two observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 82 (12 on foot, 70 by car). Total party-miles 410 (16 on foot, 394 by car). Total species 78; total individuals 21,913.

The weather was a lot different from last year. We started out with very cold temperatures this year. Last year we had a comfortable 70 degrees. It only warmed to 18°F this year.

There was a fair amount of food this year, but it was scattered so there were small pockets of birds. We have a large Crow roost in Lexington and for the last few years in has been in the count area. It varies from 14,000 to 19,000+. This year it might have exceeded this number, but none had time to do more counting. Most birds were low in numbers this year.—Pat Anderson, Brad Andres, Bill Barbour, Roger Barbour, Earl Boggs, Gary Boggs, Patrick Boggs, Ann Bradley, Eugene Bradley, Manton Cornett, Ron Duncan, Doris Fern, Jean Flynn, Mike Flynn, Jonathon Glixson, Ray Huddles, Terrie Koontz, Betty Maxson, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Sarah McClellan, Rosemary Petty, Jerry Reece, Philippe Roca, Lewis Shain, E. Marie Sutton, Andy Uterhart, Marion Uterhart, Sallie Wasielewski, Clara Weilands, Jim Williams, Mike Williams, J. Bernice Woods. Feeder Counters: Mabel Boggs, Ruth Davis, Mrs. Richard T. Stofer, Jr., Peggy Wallace and Jim Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat farmland 50%, woodland 14%, residential 13%, lakeshore 10%, streamsides 7%, parkland 6%. Dec. 21; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 4 to 20°F; wind calm. Twenty-nine observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 61.7 (13.5 on foot, 48.2 by car). Total party-miles 474 (18.3 on foot, 455.7 by car). Total species 72; total individuals 8,308.

Joe Amburgey, Ernie Baird, Ron Barbato, Ed Caldwell, Harry and Molly Caldwell, Neil Eklund (compiler), Martha and Tobin Foster, John Gower, JoAnn and Mike Hamm, Alice Heck, Edna Heck, Helen Heck, Mort Hoaglund, Mosel Jester, J. W. Kemper, Chuck Kohler, Fred Loetscher, D. W. MacDonald, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, J. B. Nichols, Walter Pennington, L. M. Reid, Joe Russell, Greg and Sandy Wagner.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, KY.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 50%, farmland 20%, streams, lakes and rivers 20%, residential 10%. Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear in a.m., cloudy and overcast in p.m.; temp. 15 to 28°F; wind W, 5-15 m.p.h. Lakes and streams mostly frozen, Ohio River open. Twenty-one observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 33.5 (13

on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 33.5 (13 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 273 (9 on foot, 264 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 2,577.

Waterfowl and blackbird species were in low numbers, while sparrows and finches were well represented. A partially albinistic Purple Finch was seen at Gerri Kennedy's feeders.—Mike Andrews, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Joanne Conradi, Marjorie Hill, Stan Hirtle, Bill Jacoby, Carolyn Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Ed Kennedy, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely, Rick Riley, Denise Rusconi, George Schoen, Carmen Schultz, Pat Scott, Tommy Stephens, Shea Stephenson, Carolyn Van Huss.

SOMERSET (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Jan. 1; 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 16 to 42°F; wind S, 0-5 m.p.h. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9 (3 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 80 (2 on foot, 78 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 160,636.

The large number of blackbirds was part of a roost in the Somerset area.—Bradford Elmore, Diane Elmore, Jackie B. Elmore, Sr. (compiler).

PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Jan. 4; 4:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 23 to 45°F; wind SW, 0-20 m.p.h. Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 26 (22 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 125 (26 on foot, 99 by car). Owling: 2.5 hours, 19 miles. Five feeder watchers for 11.5 feeder hours. Total species 41; total individuals 1,170.

Ken Arthur, Julious Begley, Liz Bradshaw, Afton and John Garrison, Alice and Rodney Hendrickson, Dean and Miriam Johnston, Steve McKee (compiler), Zelma Metcalfe, Karoun and Matthew Miller, Francis Owen, Daisy Ray, Mary Rogers, May Williams. Common Ravens are apparently increasing somewhat in our area since they were first sighted in 1978.

ROWAN COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Morehead, Ky.) Habitat as described before. Jan. 5; 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sky clear to 40% cloudy; temp. 28 to 45°F; wind W, 0-2 m.p.h. One observer in 1 party. Total party-hours 7 (2 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 62 (3 on foot, 59 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 1,601.

Fred Busroe (compiler).

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Bonnyman, Perry County, Ky.) Habitat deciduous woods, woodland edge and residential. Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 25 to 35°F; wind light. It was windy in the morning. Four observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 12 (10 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 40 (4 on foot, 36 by car). Total species 30; total individuals 359.

Although we didn't see Barred Owls this time, they are doing fairly well and are widespread. Great Horned Owls are very rare; only one found in nine years. Barn Owls are also very rare with only one sighting in eight years.—Dr. Dennis Sandlin (compiler), Dr. Don Spencer, Johnny Spencer and Benjamin Spencer.

RED BIRD (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Beverly, Ky.) Habitat forest land 60%, farm land 40%, elevation 1,200 to 2,300 feet. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 20 to 40°F; wind W, 5 m.p.h. Five observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9 (8 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 18 (6 on foot, 12 by car). Total species 22, total individuals 314.

The wild food crop was excellent.—Phyllis and Shirley Crouse, Esther and Sam (compiler) Lawson, Mabel White.

FIELD NOTES

HOUSE FINCH BUILDS NEST IN A HANGING FERN PLANT

Since the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) has only been reported in Kentucky since 1977 and little is known of its nesting habits it may be well to comment on two nests we were privileged to see during the summer of 1984.

On 6 May 1984, we noticed a House Finch carrying nesting material to a fern plant hanging from our front porch in southwest Louisville. Three days later we discovered one egg in the nest and another on the following day. We decided not to check the nest each day so as not to disturb the birds. Later that week to our disappointment and surprise we found the nest abandoned.

The nest was neatly tucked in the center of the fern and although fairly compact it was rather shallow. Its outside depth was two inches; inside depth, one-half to one inch; outside diameter, four inches; inside diameter, two inches. It was composed entirely of fine grasses, rootlet and weed stems. The lining was made up of finer grasses, bits of cotton and tiny feathers. The eggs were a pale bluish-white, with a few tiny dots at the larger end.

On 28 June 1984, my next door neighbor discovered a nest with four eggs cradled in their fern plant which was also hanging from the porch ceiling. We were asked to identify the birds and to our surprise the owners were House Finches. We could not watch the nest as closely as we would have liked, but three eggs hatched on July 7 and on July 13 all four nestlings were in the downy stage. The young were fairly well feathered on July 19 and all left the nest on July 23. Although, we do not know the length of the incubation period, we do know the nestlings remained in the nest for 16 days.—Violet and Wilbur Jackson, 4910 Manslick Road, Louisville 40216.

FIRST RECORD OF THE MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD IN KENTUCKY

At approximately 9:00 a.m. on the morning of 22 December 1984, we discovered a Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) three miles northeast of the community of Garrett in rural Meade County. The bird, tentatively identified as a male, was found associating with a sizable flock of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) that numbered at various times from 20 to 50 birds.

The Mountain Bluebird was found while we were covering an assigned territory on the Otter Creek Park Christmas Bird Count. The location was near the western end of Pack Lane, a gravel road running northeast from SR-1238 to the western edge of the Fort Knox Military Reservation where it dead ends. It was first noticed among the Eastern Bluebirds as the flock fed on dogwood and sumac berries in a low, protected yard off Pack Lane. It was immediately noticeable due to its grayish breast which contrasted sharply with the neat, rufous breast color of the many Eastern's. In addition, the blue of the upperparts was of a more turquoise shade, being most intense on the wings, rump and tail. On the crown, nape and upper back the blue was more or less obscured by grayish-buff feather edgings. Likewise the underparts, especially the throat and breast feathers, were heavily tipped with grayish-buff, entirely obscuring the blue throat and breast unless a breeze parted these feathers.

After checking a couple of field guides, we further confirmed that the bill was relatively longer and slimmer than those of the Eastern Bluebirds, a feature that, along with a sleeker neck and head shape, gave the bird a more flycatcher-like appearance. Also, the primaries were proportionately longer, overlapping the tail to a much greater extent than the Eastern's primaries. The hovering behavior, characteristic of Mountain Bluebirds was not noticeable; however, its slimmer build was evident at all times, and the bird could be picked out in flight due to its slightly larger size and longer wings.

The plumage of this bird caused some confusion because it resembled neither the typical male nor female plumages illustrated in the various field guides. When sitting high against a light background the bird's colors looked deceptively "washed out", whereas, when viewed low, against a darker background or in good light, the blues of the back, wings and tail were quite vivid. The gray breast seemed characteristic of a female, but the bright blue bases of the breast and throat feathers which could clearly be seen when the wind parted them seemed to indicate that the bird might be a male. Also, the extent and intensity of the bright blue of the crown, neck and back were characteristic of a male. Ridgeway (Bent, A.C. Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets and Their Allies, U.S. National Museum Bulletin No. 196) describes a "winter plumage" for Mountain Bluebirds with pale brownish-gray feather edgings that obscure the blue of both the upperparts and underparts to various degrees as typical of both first-year male and winter adult female plumages. Based on these characteristics, the bird was tentatively identified as a male.

After observing the bird for some time, we drove to Otter Creek Park to alert other count participants of our find. By day's end, at least six others were able to see the Mountain Bluebird. Over the following several weeks, the bird was observed on at least four other occasions: December

23, 28, January 5 and 13. On most occasions, the bluebird flock, including the Mountain Bluebird, could be found near the original site or within a half-mile along nearby woods edges and fields where they alternately fed on sumac berries and (presumably) insects over and around small pools of water that were standing in sinks in the fields. On January 5 the entire flock of bluebirds was observed about one mile down Pack Lane foraging in weedy cover on Fort Knox.

On January 13 birds were foraging on the ground on a south-facing slope where there was no snow cover, and several fairly good photographs were obtained of the Mountain Bluebird. Subsequent to this sighting, extremely cold weather invaded the eastern United States for several weeks. Two mid-February trips to relocate the Mountain Bluebird were unsuccessful. In fact, no bluebirds could be found. It is not known whether the bluebirds, especially the Easterns which are very susceptible to extreme cold perished or moved further south. It is possible that the entire flock of birds moved to a more protected area on the Fort Knox Reservation.

This occurrence represents the first record of the Mountain Bluebird in Kentucky. Records of the Mountain Bluebird east of the Mississippi are few, but vagrant birds show up annually and many eastern states have at least one record. All published records examined are of single birds that have turned up in late fall or winter, usually with flocks of Eastern Bluebirds. It is presumed that these birds wander east in fall and overwinter in the eastern United States, returning to the west in the spring.—Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Richard Cassell, and Diane Ebel, Louisville, Kentucky 40222.

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF THE NASHVILLE AREA, 4th ed., compiled by Henry E. Parmer and the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, P. O. Box 24573, Nashville, Tennessee 37202-4573, 1985; pp. iv + 60; \$4.00.

This publication is the most recent compilation of bird observations in the vicinity of Nashville, Tennessee. It also stands as a testimony to active participation by birders in the Nashville area. It is notable that the Committee for the Fourth Edition thanks "the growing number of observers who regularly go to the field in the Nashville area." No names will be mentioned in this review for fear of omission of several contributors.

This fourth edition includes a map to show the area covered—approximately 40 miles in diameter. Brief accounts of the physiography, vegetation, and weather are given. The status and frequency of each of the 306 species are included. Status includes the usual terms of permanent resident, summer resident, etc. Frequency is based on the percentage of field trips in which a species is encountered. For example, if a species is observed on approximately 75-100 percent of field trips it is designated as common; if observed on less than five percent of field trips conducted in

habitat conducive to that species it is considered rare; and if seen once every few years it is listed as an occasional species. Following is the information provided for one species:

"220. *Red-eyed Vireo*—Summer Resident (fairly common SP, SU, and F). Extreme dates: 30 Mar 1945 (1) Graybar Ln. (ARL) to 27 Oct 1975 (1 tower casualty) (KAG)."

A helpful bar-graph gives the period of expected occurrence, the period of possible occurrence, and also dates of sighting that are out of range or season. This is similar to that found in *SUMMARY OF OCCURRENCE OF BIRDS OF KENTUCKY* by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., The Kentucky Warbler, Vol. 45, Aug., 1969.

BIRDS OF THE NASHVILLE AREA contains little discussion, but there is an interesting section entitled "Changes in the Avifauna, 1975-1985." An additional 22 species have been included, and various species have increased or decreased in number, due primarily to the expansion of the human population and the impact of man on the environment.

In the introduction the statement is made that "the purpose of the present account is to provide a summary of bird records for the Nashville area through August 31, 1985." Other aims are to encourage birders in the Nashville area to become even more active in their birding activities and to maintain accurate records for inclusion in the next edition. This publication should be of particular interest and assistance to anyone studying birds in the vicinity of Nashville, and it is worthy of emulation by birders in other regions.—H. E. Shadowen, Dept. of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society will hold its annual spring meeting at Rough River Dam State Resort Park on April 25-27. A block of 25 rooms is being held available at a 15% discount for K.O.S. members until April 1. Once again the Clay's have graciously invited us to join them for an excellent birding experience and fellowship at the bird sanctuary. Please mark your calendars, make reservations early and plan to join us at Rough River.

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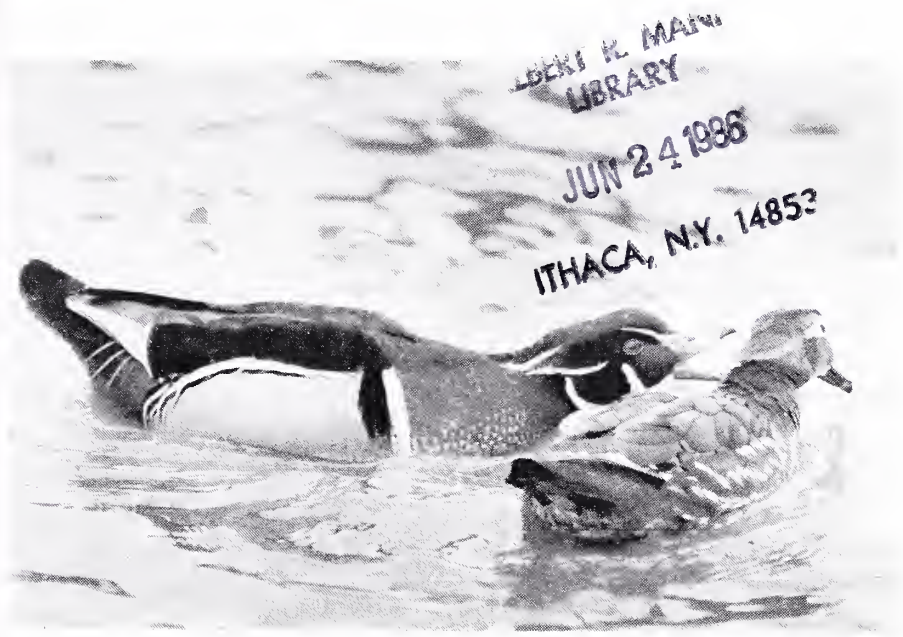
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OUR COVER

Our thanks go to Philippe Roca of Lexington for the excellent photograph of this pair of Wood Ducks.

THE WINTER SEASON, 1985-86

ANNE L. STAMM

The mild weather of the fall continued until the third week of December when the temperature dropped to six degrees on three days. Only 1.6 inches of snow fell during the month. Due to that week of cold weather the average monthly temperature at Louisville was 6.8 degrees below normal, according to the Weather Bureau. January and March both had average temperatures above normal. The weather in February was mixed with ups and downs. A winter storm hit the Louisville area and much of the state on February 14 and 15. Snowfall was as high as eight inches in central Kentucky making roads in some sections of Jefferson County impassable, but with warm days following the storm the snow melted rather rapidly. At Louisville on February 18 the temperature hit 72 degrees — one degree short of the record for that date. Elsewhere in the state temperatures were equally mild. Paducah tied its record high with a reading of 71 degrees and Lexington recorded a high of 69 degrees, one below its record. The high was 70 in Bowling Green and 65 in Covington. Less than an inch of rain fell in December and January, but precipitation was above normal in February.

As expected with the mild winter some species lingered into late December. Canada Geese were found in large groups in late December in much of the state. Gulls were in lower numbers than in recent years. The duck population was uninteresting except in western Kentucky, particularly Ballard County. Fairly good numbers of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were present in late January and February. Evening Grosbeaks were present in good numbers in eastern and western Kentucky, but few in the central part of the state.

Unusual birds recorded included a Tundra Swan, White-fronted Goose, Glaucous and Thayer's Gulls, Gray Catbirds, wintering Brown Thrashers, LeConte's Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbirds.

Loons through Herons — One to ten Common Loons were present at Lake Pewee, Lake Barkley and Lexington Reservoir the first two weeks of December, but five were present at Doe Valley Lake, January 5 (S, DN, DS, FS), three at Barren River the first week of January (WM) and one at Green River Lake, January 12 (JEL). Several Pied-billed Grebes wintered at Barren River Reservoir (RS), Lake Pewee (JH) and Lexington Reservoir (BA). Horned Grebes were scarce; one at Lake Pewee on February 19 was probably a spring arrival (JH). Although Great Blue Herons were widespread they were not as numerous as last winter; highest numbers were along the Barren River (WM). In addition to the four Black-crowned Night Herons reported on the Louisville CBC, two were seen at Mayfair basins on February 26 (BPB).

Waterfowl — An interesting find was the Tundra Swan at Jonathan Creek Bay on December 21 (MM) and 22 (MM, CP). A flock of 14 Mute Swans appeared at Three Springs Lake, Warren County in early December and remained throughout the period (WM); five were observed at Campbellsville Lake, Taylor County on January 12 (JEL); and an adult was seen at Doe Valley Lake on December 28, but was gone six days later

(S, H. Schutte, M. Bauer). A Greater White-fronted Goose was seen at Honker Lake on February 20 (CP). The only large concentration of wintering Snow Geese totaled 9000 to 10,000 at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on February 1 (CW). Wintering Canada Geese were present in fairly large flocks and were widespread (m.ob.); largest concentration totaled 62,000 at BWMA (CW). The latter flock began moving northward in late January and only 10,000 were present on February 10 (CW). The largest concentration of ducks was in western Kentucky. The duck population peaked with 19,000 at BWMA on December 16 (CW). Mallards were widespread, but no large numbers, with the exception of 1243 on the Louisville CBC and 1000 at Swan Pond on February 16 (BPB). Ducks from farther south, such as American Wigeon, Gadwall and Northern Pintail, began arriving at lakes, ponds and reservoirs in western, central and northern Kentucky during February. Only 12 Canvasbacks appeared on the CBCs, but numbers increased in January and February with 10 at Louisville on January 29 (LR), 150 at Lake Barkley on January 18 (BPB, LR, R. Cassell and D. Ebel), and 100 plus at Swan Lake, February 16 (BPB). Highest counts of Redheads included 50 at Lake Pewee on February 26 (JH) and 100 to several hundred at Swan Lake on February 16 (BPB). A few Greater Scaup were reported: two in the Ohio River basin at Louisville, December 17 (LR); a few at Towhead Island, Louisville in mid-January (BPB); two at Shippingport Island on December 22 (S, H. Scutte); and at Three Springs Lake and Barren River Reservoir during February and December, respectively (WM). An Oldsquaw was photographed in the bottoms adjacent to Swan Pond, February 16 (BPB). Scoters reported included a pair of Surf at Smithland Dam, December 3 (BPB) and a White-winged at Lexington Reservoir on December 13 (BA). Over 100 Common Goldeneye Ducks were seen at Lake Barkley on January 18 (BPB, LR, R. Cassell, D. Ebel). Hooded Mergansers were reported from six localities: Lake Pewee, Lexington Reservoir, Lentz' Pond, Barren River Reservoir, Lake Barkley and Cave Run Lake. Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were present, but in small numbers with a high count of 20 Common on Honker Lake, January 18 (BPB *et al.*) and 16 of the latter species at Lake Pewee on February 19 (JH).

Hawks — A single Osprey was still present at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, December 1 (JEL); and one on January 2 at the Narrows Boat Dock on Barren River Reservoir (WM). Bald Eagles were present in good numbers this winter. The January survey totaled 234, a new record (JD). Northern Harriers were up from last year; five were seen two miles east of Harrodsburg on December 29 (LR). Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were widely observed in fair numbers during December. Cooper's were also reported eating birds: a Starling at Owensboro (RI), a Mourning Dove at Louisville (W. Schoettler) and one crashed into a basement window and killed itself chasing prey at a nearby feeder (DN). Red-shouldered Hawks remained scarce, but were doing slightly better. Red-tailed Hawks showed a 74% gain over last year, according to the CBCs. Most of the few Rough-legged Hawks were found in central Kentucky with a maximum of 21 found near roosts in Clark County, January 14 (BA). The rare Merlin was reported at Glasgow on January 11 (RS).

Wild Turkey through Shorebirds — In addition to the 30 Wild Turkeys reported on the Land Between the Lakes CBC, 12 were observed in Ballard County on February 18 (BPB, J. MacGregor). A few Dunlin and a Least Sandpiper lingered until December 21 at Jonathan Creek Bay (M. Miller *fide* CP); singles of each species were also noted at Lake Barkley on December 3 (BPB). Quite unusual was the Spotted Sandpiper at Campbellsville Lake, Taylor County on January 19 (JEL). American Woodcocks were seen or heard in February at eight locations with the earliest at Land Between the Lakes on February 15 (BA); one picked up at Treyton Oak Towers, Louisville on February 19, and after a short period of time, took to the air (*fide* S). It was thought the bird flew against one of the windows and was temporarily stunned.

Jaeger through Gulls — A jaeger species, a new record for the state, was seen on Lake Barkley, one mile south of the dam on December 3 (BPB). Thirty-five Bonaparte's Gulls were present at Lake Barkley on December 8 (BPB, LR, R. Cassell, D. Ebel), but only a few could be found in January at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB), Lake Cumberland (BA), and Cave Run Lake (FB). Ring-billed Gulls were not as numerous this winter, with peaks of 3000-3500 at Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake (DN, CP, BPB); fair numbers at Barren River Reservoir (RS) and approximately 30 remained all winter at the Fish Hatchery and Cave Run Lake (FB). Herring Gulls were in low numbers at Louisville (LR), and only several hundred at Barkley and Kentucky Dams, in January and February (BPB). An adult Thayer's Gull was observed at Smithland Dam, Livingston County, and three first-year birds below Kentucky Dam on January 18 (BPB, R. Cassell, D. Ebel); two first-year birds at Kentucky Dam on February 15 and one there the following day were the only ones reported (BPB). A total of six Glaucous Gulls (1 adult, others first-year and first-second winter) were observed at Lake Barkley, Kentucky and Barkley Dams on various dates ranging from December 8 to February 16 (BPB, DN, JR, LR, R. Cassell, D. Ebel); one (first-winter) at the Falls of the Ohio from December 27-January 12 (DN, BPB, D. Ebel).

Owls through Swallows — The only Common Barn Owls reported were the two on the CBCs: one at Sorgho and one at Lexington. Short-eared Owls were scarce: one in Shelby County on January 12 (WB). Horned Larks were much more numerous during late December than last year, especially in Louisville and Yelvington. A fairly early Tree Swallow was observed on February 16 over Swan Pond, Ballard County (BPB). Several Eastern Phoebe's lingered into late December and early January (m.ob.).

Crows through Shrikes — A large Crow roost was again reported near Lexington with numbers estimated at 14,000+ during late December (RM). Red-breasted Nuthatches were common and widespread. They remained throughout the winter in Fayette, Hopkins, Jefferson and Warren Counties. A feeder at Bowling Green had as many as nine birds at one time (WM). Carolina Wrens apparently suffered from the severe weather in January 1985 since the CBCs showed a 34% decrease over last year. Eastern Bluebirds were widespread, but showed a decline over the previous year. Finding nine Hermit Thrushes at Land Between the Lakes on February 15 was of special interest (BA). Migratory movements of the American Robin were noted during the week of January 15-21 at Louisville (S) and in Lexington on February 6 (BA). Statewide fewer American Robins wintered than in

1985. A few Catbirds were recorded: one on January 1 at Freeman Lake (RH); and one at Louisville on January 14 (MB). A few Brown Thrashers wintered: one throughout the period at Madisonville (JH); one at Louisville from December 26-February 14 (S, FS). Water Pipits were observed throughout January in Clark County and a single bird at Land Between the Lakes on February 15 (BA). Loggerhead Shrikes were about normal in numbers.

Warblers through Blackbirds — Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarce in some localities. Only small numbers of Tree Sparrows were present this winter. A few Savannah Sparrows showed up in Clark County on January 26 (BA) and 15 were seen near Bandana, Ballard County on February 16 (BPB). A LeConte's Sparrow at La Center, Ballard County, February 16 was probably an early migrant (BPB). A total of 45 Fox Sparrows on the Bowling Green CBC was unusual (H. Shadowen). The species was not found in some areas where it usually overwinters (DS), but two or three were present at feeders during the coldest weather at Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville (BPB). An unusually large blackbird roost was present in the Fern Creek area. On November 27 Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. estimated 467,000 birds with the majority being Common Grackles, and Starlings. Numbers increased and by the end of February the roost contained approximately 9,200,000 birds. At the latter date, Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds made up the larger portion of the roost (BM). Three male and one female Brewer's Blackbirds were seen in Clark County on February 19 (BA).

Finches — Purple Finches were widespread and in good numbers. House Finches continued to increase in numbers particularly in central Kentucky (m. ob.). A probable Common Redpoll was heard, but "not seen well" at BWMA on February 16 (BPB). Pine Siskins were widespread and more common than last winter; 30 were at a feeding station on January 16, east of Murray (WB); and as many as 14 on a feeder in Bowling Green (WM). American Goldfinches were unusually common and widespread. There was much activity at feeding stations: a count of 100 at Murray on January 16 (WB); a maximum of 52 at Madisonville (JH); also good numbers at Valley Station (DS). Evening Grosbeaks were more common in eastern and western Kentucky than in the central part. Fifteen to thirty were seen daily at a feeding station in Morehead and similar numbers at other feeders in the city (FB); a count of 125 at a feeder east of Murray on January 16 (WB); "hordes" at Tompkinsville (*vide* RS); smaller numbers at Falls of the Rough (KC); and almost non-existent in Louisville.

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Mary B. Bauer (MB), Wally Brines (WB), W. H. Brown (WB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Herbert Clay (HC), James Durell (JD), Jackie Elmore (JEL), E. Groneman (EG), Richard Healey (RH), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mike Miller (MM), Robert Morris (RM), Kay Mudd (KM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), John Robinson (JR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Margaret Sullivan (MS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Wilkins (CW). Other abbreviation: Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). — 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, 40222.

WINTER WATERFOWL ON THE SWAN POND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

CHARLES W. LOGSDON

The Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area (SPWMA) consists of approximately 2800 acres of cypress-ringed lakes and natural wetlands in the southwestern corner of Ballard County, Kentucky. During the period from 1 December 1985 through 1 March 1986 intensive waterfowl surveys were performed to document waterfowl use that occurred on the area. The average daily population per week, total goose and duck use-days per week, and total number of Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) and duck use-days for the entire survey period are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Peak Canada Goose use occurred during the last week of February when the average daily population was 1500 geese. This late winter increase was the result of geese returning north from wintering areas south of the SPWMA. Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) were not observed on the area until late February when flocks of 4-10 geese were observed on two separate occasions. Blue phase Snow Geese were predominate as only two white phase geese were observed. The only other goose species represented was the White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) of which three immatures were observed during the last week of February.

Table 1. Average daily Canada Goose population estimates by week and total goose use-days observed on the Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area between 1 December 1985 and 1 March 1986.

| Week | Average Daily Population | Range | Goose Use-days per week |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Dec. - 7 Dec. | 40.0 | 0- 200 | 280.0 |
| 8 Dec. - 14 Dec. | 25.0 | 0- 200 | 175.0 |
| 15 Dec. - 21 Dec. | 345.5 | 74- 550 | 2,418.5 |
| 22 Dec. - 28 Dec. | 617.3 | 149- 1,000 | 4,321.1 |
| 29 Dec. - 4 Jan. | 279.2 | 150- 550 | 1,954.4 |
| 5 Jan. - 11 Jan. | 197.5 | 57- 326 | 1,382.5 |
| 12 Jan. - 18 Jan. | 317.7 | 183- 585 | 2,223.9 |
| 19 Jan. - 25 Jan. | 612.6 | 515- 700 | 4,288.2 |
| 26 Jan. - 1 Feb. | 426.1 | 200- 800 | 2,982.7 |
| 2 Feb. - 8 Feb. | 469.8 | 0- 750 | 3,288.6 |
| 9 Feb. - 15 Feb. | 700.00 | 700 | 4,200.0* |
| 16 Feb. - 22 Feb. | 830.2 | 521- 1,000 | 5,811.4 |
| 23 Feb. - 1 Mar. | 1,500.2 | 1,200- 1,800 | 10,500.0 |
| Total = | | | 43,827.3 |

* Backwater and ice prevented accurate surveys for majority of week.

Table 2. Average daily duck population estimates by week and total duck use-days observed on the Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area between 1 December 1985 and 1 March 1986.

| Week | Average Daily Population | Range | Duck Use-days per week |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 Dec. - 7 Dec. | 1,034.5 | 600- 1,469 | 7,241.5 |
| 8 Dec. - 14 Dec. | 3,830.0 | 2,660- 5,000 | 26,810.0 |
| 15 Dec. - 21 Dec. | 31,850.0 | 10,900-45,000 | 222,950.0 |
| 22 Dec. - 28 Dec. | 25,850.0 | 22,500-30,800 | 180,950.0 |
| 29 Dec. - 4 Jan. | 11,606.3 | 7,000-25,000 | 81,244.1 |
| 5 Jan. - 11 Jan. | 12,316.3 | 10,430-14,110 | 86,214.1 |
| 12 Jan. - 18 Jan. | 2,689.2 | 615- 8,100 | 18,824.4 |
| 19 Jan - 25 Jan. | 4,565.8 | 3,000- 6,095 | 31,960.6 |
| 26 Jan. - 1 Feb. | 21,912.8 | 3,802-47,620 | 153,389.5 |
| 2 Feb. - 8 Feb. | 1,000.2 | 96- 3,100 | 7,001.4 |
| 9 Feb. - 15 Feb. | 3,000.0 | 3,000 | 21,000.0* |
| 16 Feb. - 22 Feb. | 2,100.8 | 425- 3,680 | 14,705.6 |
| 23 Feb - 1 Mar. | 2,168.5 | 2,037- 2,300 | 15,179.5 |
| | | | Total = 867,470.7 |

* Backwater and ice prevented accurate surveys for majority of week.

Duck use on the area was greatest during the third week of December when the average daily population was 31,850 (range 10,900-45,000). Average daily populations remained above 10,000 ducks until the second week of January when food resources on the area were exhausted. A dramatic increase from an average daily population of 4,500 to 22,000 was observed during the last week of January as ducks began to return with the first warm air masses that moved north from the Gulf.

The primary duck species observed on the area during December and January was Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), but Northern Pintails (*A. acuta*), American Black Ducks (*A. rubripes*), American Wigeons (*A. americana*), Ring-necked Ducks, (*Aythya collaris*) and Canvasbacks (*A. valisineria*) were also abundant on the area. During late February diving ducks became the predominate species with Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Red-heads (*Aythya americana*), Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) and Canvasbacks being the most common species. Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*), Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) and Common Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) were also observed regularly.

The most notable birds species observed on the area were Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) on 8 December (1) and 9 December (2), one Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) on 3 December and a family of Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator* (2 adults: 3 immatures) on 11 February (no details given).

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring Meeting — April 25-27, 1986

The 63rd annual spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Rough River Dam State Park on April 25-27, 1986.

The Friday evening session was called to order by the president, Fred Busroe, who welcomed those present. He then turned the meeting over to vice-president Jim Williams for the introductions of the evening speakers. Brad Andres presented the results of a study on wintering raptors in Clark County, Brainerd Palmer-Ball, Jr. spoke on the status of nesting herons and egrets on Shippingport Island at the Falls of the Ohio, Allen Stickley, Jr. presented a program on blackbird roosts and methods of control, Dr. Herbert Clay provided information on nesting Bluebirds in Grayson County and the evening program was concluded with an update on the progress of the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas project. Field trips and leaders for Saturday and Sunday were announced. The Friday session was concluded with a social hour.

Saturday morning was warm and sunny. There was a 5:00 a.m. field trip around the lodge followed by an 8:00 a.m. trip to the Falls of the Rough led by Mrs. Herbert Clay and Brainerd Palmer-Ball, Jr. A lavish lunch was generously provided by the Clays at their Big Pond Sanctuary. A cassette presentation of "Birding with Roger Tory Peterson" was shown at the lodge at 2:30 p.m. The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m.

The Saturday evening meeting began at 7:30 p.m. at the lodge. Fred Busroe introduced the program, the film "Last Stronghold of the Eagles." Following the film, members went to the front of the lodge to view Halley's Comet which was located by the Kingsolvers. The group then returned to the lodge for a brief business meeting. The treasurer's report was given and Blaine Ferrell, Virginia Kingsolver and Anne Stamm were approved as members of the Nominating Committee. The 1986 Fall Meeting will be October 3-5 at Kenlake State Park and the 1987 Spring Meeting was tentatively set for April 24-26 at Lake Cumberland State Park. Fred Busroe expressed to the Clays the gratitude of the K.O.S. for the fine luncheon they provided at Big Pond Sanctuary. New members were welcomed and new life members were recognized. Members were urged to write their congressmen regarding the need to maintain federal funding for the Land Between the Lakes programs. Finally, Fred Busroe led the group in compiling the day's bird list which totaled 102 species.

A Sunday morning field trip beginning at 8:30 a.m. was led by Mrs. Clay to Byrd Haven. Additional birds observed on Sunday brought the weekend total to 108 species. Total registrations for the meeting were 69.

Respectfully submitted
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1986

Members and guests who registered totaled sixty-nine. Seventeen cities in Kentucky, plus one in Indiana, were represented.

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, William and Ruth Mathes, Herbert and Jacky Shadowen, Allen and Mildred Stickley, Jr.

BURLINGTON: Lee and Lynda McNeely.

CARLISLE: Wendell and Virginia Kingsolver.

CLARKSON: Ruth Keller, Mrs. Temple Keller.

CYNTHIANA: Mr. and Mrs. William G. Wigglesworth.

ELIZABETHTOWN: George Elliott, Joan Noel, Blanch Schorr.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH: Joyce Porter, Judith Williams.

GLASGOW: Russell and Faye Starr.

HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin

HODGENSVILLE: Susan Cruse.

LEITCHFIELD: Montelle and Alita Wilson.

LEXINGTON: Brad Andres, Michael and Jean Flynn, Sarah McClellan, Jim and Gerry Williams.

LOUISVILLE: Jane Bell, Patricia Bell, Robert K. Brown, Altha Cain, Herbert and Kathryn Clay, Katherine Colburn, Diane Ebel, Doris Garst, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, William Schoettler, Beatrice Short, Frederick and Anne Stamm, Donald Summerfield, Judi Jones.

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe.

OWENSBORO: Lani Hamilton, Ramon and Eleanor Iles, Lydia Greenwell, William T. Perkins, Rose Ann Radzelovage, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Worthington, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

RICHMOND: Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Charles.

STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Stevenson.

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND.: Larry and Pat Lock, Stuart and Mary Ann Jenkins.

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1986

Birds observed on Saturday field trips include: Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren,

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow for a total of 102 species. Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Nashville Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Blue Grosbeak were species observed on Sunday. The addition of these species brought the weekend total to 108 species.

BOOK REVIEW

FAMILIES OF BIRDS: A Guide to Bird Classification, Revised Edition, by Oliver L. Austin, illustrated by Arthur Singer. Golden Press, Western Publishing Co., Inc., Racine, Wisconsin, 1985; 200 pp.; \$7.95.

This is another of the Golden Field Guide publications, and it certainly has the aesthetic appeal found in some of the other guides. However, it treats birds at the family level rather than at the species level. A brief introduction is given to world faunal regions, the fossil bird record, and bird evolution. The author considers in phylogenetic sequence the orders and families of birds of the world. Each family description is accompanied by a painting of a member of that family as well as sketches of beaks and feet of some of the families. Each family is briefly described under three categories: distribution, characteristics and habits. Following is the description of the family Columbidae on page 86:

"PIGEONS, DOVES, Columbidae

Distribution: 298 species, 284 living, 5 lately extinct, 38 fossil, to Miocene of France. Worldwide in temperate and tropical regions. Mostly arboreal forest dwellers; some terrestrial in open lands. Many species migratory, especially northern ones.

Characteristics: 6-33". Compact, full-breasted birds with rather short necks and small heads. Bills relatively small and slender, constricted in middle, and with a fleshy cere at base. Colors widely varied. Sexes alike or nearly so.

Habits: gregarious or solitary. Most are strong, fast fliers. Eat seeds, fruit, some insects, worms. Eggs 1-3; usually in a frail platform nest; incubated by both parents. Young fed "pigeons milk" from parent's crop."

The above description is followed by paintings of four species in the family.

This book is of paperback construction with the pages glued into position, so there may be a tendency for pages to drop out with continued use.

I am somewhat confused as to the value of this publication to an experienced birder. Much of the material in the text can be found in 14 pages of *An Introduction to Ornithology*, by Wallace and Mahan, or in other ornithology textbooks. It certainly does not have the value of *Birds of North America*, by Robbins, Bruun, Zim, and Singer, or other species field guides. Perhaps, if someone were acquainted with bird species and desired additional information concerning bird families and characteristics, he might be interested in this publication, but much more detailed information concerning families of birds is available from several sources. It may have appeal to those who might want a short concise presentation, and I am sure that many will be attracted to it because of the superb artistry of Arthur. Singer. — H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

INFORMATION WANTED

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS are being color banded along Plymouth Beach, MA, as part of an ongoing study to estimate turnover rates. Individuals were marked using, red, orange, white, yellow, and green bands. All bands were placed on the lower leg — two on the left and three on the right. No two bands of the same color are adjacent. If you see a marked bird during spring or fall migration, the following information would be appreciated: date, location, color band combination, and number of Semipalmated Sandpipers in the flock. Please send information to MARK J. KASPRZYK, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345.

MOVING?

If you are moving or changing address, please notify the Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer in order that the mailing of the Kentucky Warbler may be carried out expeditiously. Thank you.

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The Kentucky Warbler

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OUR COVER

Our thanks to Phillipe Roca for this excellent photograph of a female Mallard and young. (The picture was taken using a Nikon F-3 camera equipped with a 300 mm lens plus-X set at 250 ASA and 8 F/S.)

HAWKWATCHING ALONG THE CUMBERLAND RIDGE, KENTUCKY

BRAD ANDRES

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the popularity of hawkwatching as an ornithological hobby has grown considerably. With the creation of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) ten years ago, hawkwatchers have sprung up all across the country. However, only spotty information exists on raptor migrations in Kentucky. Outside scattered incidents of migration along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the most regular migration in the state occurs along the Cumberland Mountains in southeastern Kentucky. Cumberland Gap National Historic Park provides easy access to the ridge to view the migration spectacle. Several observers have witnessed the migration on this ridge, mainly in September, and have published their observations (Stamm 1972, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1985). In helping other Kentucky birders discover hawkwatching, the purpose of this paper is to explain the role of the Cumberland Mountain in migration and provide information on the species occurring along the ridge. A bibliography is provided for those interested in reading further on the subject.

THE ROLE OF THE CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN IN HAWK MIGRATION

The Cumberland ridge runs one hundred miles from eastern Virginia along the Virginia-Kentucky border, and into Tennessee. This ridge lies on the western edge of the ridge and valley province formed by the Appalachians. These ridges run in a northeast to southwest orientation from Maine to Alabama. It is on the eastern edge of this system that Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania is located. Because of the Cumberland's position in this arrangement, patterns of migration may vary from the norm at Hawk Mountain. It has been generally found that days of northwest winds produce the best hawk flights. These winds, by perpendicularly striking the ridges, produce deflective currents that are used by hawks on their push south. Northwest winds also tend to drift hawks toward the most eastern ridges concentrating them in places like Hawk Mountain. Thus, on the western ridges, flights may be best when winds are from the north or the east resulting in little drift or even "reverse drift". Hurly (1970) found that on a similarly positioned ridge in West Virginia, peak flights occurred on days with southeast winds. Although this may be an example of reverse drift, Hurly's data was concerned with Broad-winged Hawk flights in September which peak in a rather constricted time frame. Further investigations on ridges like the Cumberland may reveal some interesting patterns. One such pattern would be the utilization of these western ridges in spring migration. Besides deflective air currents, hawks also utilize rising warm air masses, thermals, to minimize their energy expenditure during migration. Broad-winged Hawks are well known for their behavior of kettling in large numbers in thermals. Hawks also use ridges as a navigational aid. These "leading lines" aid the bird visually in heading south. (For a thorough treatment of wind drift and leading lines see Mueller 1967).

HAWKWATCHING ON THE RIDGE

In the past, observers have found the parking lot at the park headquarters (Stamm pers. comm.) and the pinnacle overlook to be satisfactory places to view the passage of migrating raptors. From the front of the overlook, facing north, birds can be spotted coming down both sides of the ridge and directly overhead. On days of clear skies and warm temperatures, birds are often spotted straight up at the limit of binocular vision. Overcast conditions provide the observer with an easier viewing of a low altitude flight. The passing of a front and moderate winds yield the best results. Hawkwatchers are encouraged to record weather parameters according to HMANA's "Instructions for Daily Report Forms". These parameters include: Maximum visibility, temperature, sky condition, wind speed and direction, altitude of flight, flight direction, number of observers, minutes of observation, and hourly species observations. All these bits of information are logged onto a computer form which can be turned into HMANA for nationwide compilation. By being diligent in recording, one can contribute to the general knowledge of hawk migration as well as discern daily and seasonal trends at a specific site.

THE FLIGHT ON CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN

Generally, hawk migration along the Appalachian occurs from late August to early December. In the past two years I have spent 43.5 hours at the pinnacle observing fall migrating hawks. In this time I have recorded 259 individuals representing ten species. Table I presents the numbers of individuals and the species observed. The lookout has produced an average of six birds per hour over this time. As can be expected, Broad-winged Hawks were the dominant species observed. This species is also probably the most variable from year to year depending upon the September temperatures. (See Stamm 1972 regarding a spectacular flight of Broad-wings on the ridge). One surprise was a rather large movement of 166 Turkey Vultures and 16 Red-shouldered Hawks on November 8, 1985 (Stamm 1986). I believe October and November hold the most promise of interesting and unique hawkwatching experiences on the Cumberland ridge. Another interesting aspect of the fall migration is the movement of Sharp-shinned Hawks in relation to Cooper's Hawks. Both Mengel (1965) and Monroe (1969) regard the Cooper's as more abundant in the fall than the Sharp-shinned. I have found the ratio of Sharp-shinned to Cooper's to be heavily skewed toward the former and in accordance with those of other Appalachian lookouts (Table II). In fact, Mengel's *Birds of Kentucky* (1965) provides little information on raptor migration within the state. It is my hope that these brief notes will spark interest in other Kentucky birders to explore hawkwatching and fill in the gaps in our ornithological record. As the Stamms will agree, once you've gazed upon a kettle of Broad-wings, you will forever have your eyes to the skies.

Table I. Numbers and species of raptors observed at Cumberland Gap.

| DAYS | HOURS | BV | TV | SS | CR | RT | RS | BW | BE | NH | OS | PF | AK | UU ¹ | TOT ² |
|------|-------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 7 | 43.5 | 4 | 166 | 58 | 6 | 61 | 17 | 188 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 259 |

Species are listed taxonomically from Black Vulture to American Kestrel.
1 - unidentified
2 - total does not reflect vultures

Table II. Ratios of Sharp-shinned Hawks : Cooper's Hawks at Appalachian lookouts.

| Lookout | SS : CH |
|--------------------|---------|
| Hawk Mountain, PA | 14 : 1 |
| Raccoon Ridge, NJ | 15 : 1 |
| Chilhowee, TN | 10 : 1 |
| Mount Tom, MA | 11 : 1 |
| Cumberland Gap, KY | 10 : 1 |

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- 506 Spring Hill Dr., Lexington, KY 40503.

THE SPRING MIGRATION OF 1986

ANNE L. STAMM

The weather in the spring of 1986 was similar throughout the state: temperature above normal and rainfall below normal. A few record highs were broken at Paducah on March 25 and 30 with 76 and 84 degrees, respectively. In sharp contrast, however, temperatures dipped to a low of 25 degrees in Casey County on 23 April, 25 degrees in the Lake Cumberland region and 28 degrees at Louisville. These low temperatures retarded migration.

The general opinion of observers seemed to be that waterfowl movement was early. There were mixed reports on the shorebird migration due to the dry season and some loss of habitat. Thrushes and warblers seemed to be in lower numbers than in previous seasons and the height of the warbler migration appeared to be in mid-May.

Several unusual species of birds were reported: Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Franklin's, Laughing and Thayer's Gulls, Fish Crows, and a Black-headed Grosbeak.

Loons through Herons — A few Common Loons were reported beginning with a single migrant at Lake Pewee on March 26 (JH), two at Cumberland Gap on April 5 (BA), other scattered reports with a maximum of seven at Lake Barkley and last observed there on May 25-26 (BPB, J. Robinson, D. Ebel). Pied-billed Grebes were scarce with a high of 11 at Lake Pewee on March 11 (JH) and one as late as May 6 on the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, Henderson County (hereafter S.S.). The only Horned Grebes reported were the five at Lake Pewee on March 11 (JH) and at Cave Run Lake, March 19 (BA). At Least 12 Double-crested Cormorants were seen flying over Lake #9 on April 5 (DN, BBC), two hundred forty there on April 6 (BPB), four, May 26 and one at the Falls of the Ohio, May 1 (BPB). There were reports of single American Bitterns from S.S., April 13 (BA BPB, LR, C. Justice), Grayson County, May 10 (*fide* KC), Lentz's Pond in Louisville, May 14 and two at Reelfoot NWR, April 20 (BPB), while a Least Bittern was reported only at S.S., May 25 (BPB, D. Ebel). Single Great Blue Herons were reported at only four locations: Boyle, Fayette, Hopkins and Trimble Counties. Small numbers of Great Egrets were present in Ballard and Fulton Counties during April and May (BPB); singles at East Bend Bottoms, Boone County, April 5 (LMc), Shippingport Island, April 7 (BPB), and Cave Run Lake, Rowan County, May 8 (BA). Single Snowy Egrets returned to the Falls of the Ohio, May 20-21 and at Swan Lake, Ballard County, May 26 (BPB). Also, six to eight Little Blue Herons were seen at Swan Lake, May 7 and 26 (BPB). Cattle Egrets were widely distributed and reported from Reelfoot NWR, April 6 and 20, Lake Barkley, May 6-7 (BPB); Murray, May 5 (MM); Dewey Lake, Warren County, April 17-18 (WM); Shippingport Island, May 19 and 31 (BPB, S, BBC); and Bernheim Forest in March (no date given — A. Coomes *fide* BPB). Highest count was 11 at Murray (MM). Green-backed Herons were late in arriving with the earliest at Madisonville on April 11 (JH). Numbers were low with the exception of the 17 at Cave Run Lake, May 8 (BA). Black-crowned Night Herons returned to Shippingport Island on March 26 with a high count of 123 on May 16 (LR); one hundred fifty at the Falls of the Ohio, May 22 (BPB); also observed at Lexington Reservoir (BA). The five

reports of Yellow-crowned Night Herons included six birds at Lexington (BA), five at Shippingport Island, one at S.S., two at Reelfoot NWR (BPB); and one at the Falls of the Ohio (DN, P. Noble).

Waterfowl — The waterfowl movement was in early March in most sections of the state; marsh ducks, with the exception of the Blue-winged Teal, left early, while divers lingered a bit longer. A single Mute Swan was reported on a pond at Berea along I-75 on April 6 (BA) and at S.S. from March 15-April 13 (BPB). The Greater White-fronted Goose which had been reported at Honker Lake previously was still present on April 14 (E. Ray), while 17 Snow Geese still lingered at Swan Lake, March 2, (BPB). The highest counts of marsh ducks included 100 Pintails between Bayou and Carrsville, Livingston County and at Swan Lake, March 1 and 2, respectively; over 300 Blue-winged Teal in Henderson and Union Counties, 5 April; 100 Shovelers, 150 Gadwalls in Henderson County, 16 March; 100 American Wigeons at Swan Lake, March 2 (BPB) and at Lexington Reservoir, March 21 (BA). Fairly large groups of diving ducks included 100 Canvasbacks and 100 Redheads at Swan Lake, March 2 and 200 of the latter species in Livingston County, March 1 (BPB). There were 200 Lesser Scaups at Cave Run Lake, March 19 (BA) and 90 at Louisville in the Ohio River basin, March 26 (LR). A pair of Greater Scaups was present at Three Springs, Warren County, April 13 (WM). A Common Merganser in the Danville area was the "first since '79" (FL).

Hawks — No large migrating hawk flights were reported. Single Ospreys were reported at four locations: northeast corner of Shelbyville on May 8 (WB); Land Between the Lakes and at Paradise Steam Plant, April 6 (DN, BBC); Falls of the Ohio, April 13, 22, 28 and May 6 (BPB). Three Mississippi Kites were observed in Hickman County, May 7 (BPB with J. T. Erwin). A sub-adult Bald Eagle was noted at Cumberland Gap, March 17 (BA). Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen occasionally in Boone County with one at Boone Cliffs on May 17 (LMc); one in Shelbyville, May 9 (WB); one at Cumberland Gap, March 17, three on April 5 (BA). Few observers mentioned Cooper's Hawks, but two were present throughout the period at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC); singles at Cumberland Gap, March 17 and April 4 (BA) and in Carroll County, May 24 (S, DS). Single Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Danville, February 22 and March 5 (FL, W. Kemper), Glasgow, March 22 (RS) and Clark County, March 24 (BA, A sub-adult Golden Eagle in Livingston County on March 1 was unusual (BPB, LR, D. Ebel). There were two sightings of adult Peregrine Falcons: one at Reelfoot NWR, April 20 (BPB) and at Louisville, May 3 (BPB and BBC).

Rails through Coots — It was a good year for rails. A King Rail, two Virginia Rails and 10 Soras were flushed at S.S. on April 13 (BPB, BA, LR, C. Justice). Other Soras reported included several at Dewey Lake, May 4-10 (WM), one at Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, May 8 and one found dead on the University of Kentucky Campus, April 23 (BA). A Common Moorhen returned to Lexington Reservoir, May 8 (BA) and six or more at S.S. on May 25 (BPB, D. Ebel). Fair numbers of American Coots were observed at Lake Pewee (JH) and approximately 1000 fed above the dam on Kentucky Lake, April 6 (BPB). Two small flocks of Sandhill Cranes were seen: one over Anderson County on March 21 and one over Owen County, March 23 (L. Andrews & M. Baggott *fide* BPB).

Shorebirds — Due to the dry season the shorebird habitat and concentrations were unevenly distributed. Bowling Green and Danville had unusually poor flights. A fair number of species were observed but numbers, with few exceptions, were low. Black-bellied and Lesser Golden Plovers were in low numbers with three of the former as the high at the Falls of the Ohio, May 16 (DN, P. Noble) and in Fulton County (M. Bierly *vide* BPB). The Lesser Golden Plover arrived at Jonathan Creek, Marshall County, March 10 which established an early date (MM); three at the Falls of the Ohio, one in western Henderson County and a total of nine at Open Pond, Fulton County was the highest number reported (BPB). Semipalmated Plovers were widespread and were present from April 20 to May 24. Some of the more interesting sightings included eight at Clark Fish Hatchery, May 8 (BA), eleven at East Bend, May 10 (LMc), and 115 in scattered flocks in western Henderson County, May 6 (BPB). Greater Yellowlegs were later than usual with the earliest arrival on March 28 at Elk Creek, Hopkins County (JH), numbers were small, with the exception of 80 on April 13 in western Henderson County (BPB *et al.*), numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs were low except for those in Henderson and Fulton Counties, where scattered flocks totaled 145 and 325, respectively. Solitary Sandpipers began arriving on April 5 at East Bend (LMc) and in Fulton County (DN, BBC). Single Willets appeared at Kentucky Dam and at the Falls of the Ohio, April 19 and 28, respectively, with seven at the former location, May 7 (BPB and with J. T. Erwin at the latter location). The only Spotted Sandpipers reported were several at Dewey Lake, Three Springs (WM) and Pine Mountain State Park (BA). Ruddy Turnstones are rare in spring, but three to five were at the Falls of the Ohio from May 14-21 (DN, P. Noble, BPB), one still there, May 28 (LR) and one at Newburgh Dam, Henderson County, May 24 (BPB). The reports of Sanderlings at the Clark Fish Hatchery, May 8 (BA) and at Swan Lake, May 26 (BPB, D. Ebel) were noteworthy. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were found in Fulton, Henderson, Boone and Jefferson Counties with counts of 60 of the former species and 75-100 of the latter in western Henderson County. Also, flocks of "peeps" (100-300) at the Falls of the Ohio, May 14 and 16, with the majority being Semipalmated (DN, BPB). A single White-rumped Sandpiper near Hamlin, Calloway County, May 3 was an interesting find (MM) as were the six at S.S. on May 6 (BPB), several at Lake #9, May 7 (BPB with J. T. Erwin) and four to eight at the Falls of the Ohio, May 16-23 (BPB). Pectoral Sandpipers were fairly widespread with the earliest reported at Jonathan Creek, March 10 with 50 birds (MM); one hundred in Fulton County, April 5 (DN, BBC), 350 there on April 20 (BPB) and 75 in Henderson County, May 6 (BPB), last reported at Danville, May 10 (FL, W. Kemper). Pectoral Sandpipers were also observed at Cave Run Lake, March 19 and in Fayette County, March 21 (BA). A flock of 100+ Dunlin at Jonathan Creek on March 10 was unusually early and established an early date (MM). Also, one to six Dunlins were present during April and May at S.S., Lake #9, Falls of the Ohio (BPB, BA, J. T. Erwin) and Clark Fish Hatchery (BA). Two — three Stilt Sandpipers were present at S.S., April 13 and May 6 (BA, BPB): several at Lake #9, May 7 (BPB, J. T. Erwin) and five at the Falls of the Ohio, May 14 (BPB). A single Short-billed Dowitcher was heard and seen at Mayfair settling basins, Louisville, May 3, three at the Falls of the Ohio on May 16 and three heard and seen at S.S., May 6 (BPB). Also, one was reported at Reelfoot NWR, May 7 (BPB, J. T. Erwin). A dowitcher species was seen near Hamlin, May 3 (MM). Three

Long-billed Dowitchers were seen and heard at S.S. on April 5 and 13 (BPB, and latter date with BA, LR, C. Justice); and one in breeding plumage at Reelfoot NWR, April 20 (BPB). Common Snipe were reported from March 28 with seven birds at Lentz's Pond (LR) to May 10 in Grayson County (KC). Other sightings were in Fulton, Henderson (BPB), Boone (LMc) and Clark Counties (BA), with 60 to 100 birds in Henderson and Fulton Counties, respectively. A Wilson's Phalarope at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville on March 30 was unusually early (DN, J. Noonan); singles were also found at S.S., April 13 and at Reelfoot NWR, April 20 (BPB). The only American Woodcocks reported were singles at Eubank, March 4 (JEL) and at Lexington Reservoir, May 8 (BA).

Gulls through Terns — In recent years Laughing Gulls have become more frequent visitors. Singles appeared at Smithland Dam, May 8 (BPB) and at the Falls of the Ohio, May 15-16 (LR); three to four at Kentucky Dam, May 25 (BPB, J. Robinson, D. Ebel) and *five* there, May 26 — a state record total (BPB, D. Ebel). An adult Franklin's Gull showed up at Kentucky Dam, April 5 (DN, BBC); five there, May 7 (BPB, J. T. Erwin), one adult on May 25, two the following day (BPB, J. Robinson, D. Ebel); one on the Falls of the Ohio, May 22, two there on May 23 (LR) and one remained on May 24 (BPB). Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from only four locations with the greatest concentration of 250 birds at Kentucky Dam, April 6 (BPB); thirty-five was the high count at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB), five still present at the latter location on May 4 (S, FS) and one at Kentucky Lake on May 7 (BPB). An adult Thayer's Gull at the Falls of the Ohio, April 10-11 was quite late (BPB, DN on the latter date). A rather late Glaucous Gull was seen at Kentucky Dam, March 1 (BPB, LR, D. Ebel).

A fairly early Caspian Tern appeared at the Falls of the Ohio, April 12 (DN) and numbers peaked at 34 on April 17 (BPB), one still there May 23 (BPB). Thirty Caspians were also noted at Lake Barkley, April 19, eight at Smithland Dam and two at Newburg Dam, May 6 (BPB). Few Common Terns were seen, but fair numbers of Forster's were recorded in western Kentucky with 40-45 at Kentucky Dam, April 19 (BPB). Two to ten Least Terns were recorded at Smithland Dam, Swan Lake and three locations in Fulton County, May 25-26, also two were present at the Falls of the Ohio, May 25-26 (BPB). Single Black Terns at Lake Barkley on May 6 and 25 were the only ones reported.

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — The only Black-billed Cuckoos reported were singles at the Clark Fish Hatchery, May 8 (BA) and near Union, Boone County, May 10 (LMc). Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared to be scarce and came in late, recorded earliest at Shakertown, May 7 (BA). Two Barn Owls were seen frequently at Stanley, Daviess County (TS). Common Nighthawks were quite late and not reported until April 29 at Lexington (BA) and April 30 at Somerset (JEL). Whip-poor-will's were scarce in the Owensboro area (RI). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared to be scarce; singles lingered at Burlington until May 4 (LMc) and in Grayson County on May 10 (*fide* KC). Downy Woodpeckers seemed to be in low numbers at Danville (FL).

Flycatchers through Nuthatches — Single Alder Flycatchers were heard at Shippingport, May 22 (BPB) and at Perryville, May 24 — their first since 1976 (FL, W. Kemper); five to six at S.S., May 25 (BPB).

Willow Flycatchers arrived at Petersburg, Boone County and at Clark Fish Hatchery on May 8 (LMc and BA, respectively), several at S.S., May 25 (BPB) and at least 12 at Shippingport Island, May 31 (S, BBC). A Great Crested Flycatcher in the Falls of the Rough area was ahead of schedule on March 19 (KC). The swallow migration was not exciting with low numbers of Purple Martins observed. Tree Swallows arrived on March 16 at S.S. (BPB) and 150 birds at the Falls of the Ohio, May 21 was the highest concentration reported (LR). Two flocks of Bank Swallows containing an estimated 400 birds were observed in Carroll County, May 24 (S, FS, DS). Cliff Swallows were not seen at Barren River Reservoir until April 16, but many present May 3 (WM), several groups totaling 160 were at bridges along Nolin and Rough Rivers in Grayson County, May 10 (*vide* KC). Fish Crows were observed as far north as Columbus-Belmont State Park, March 31 (R. Cierello, C. Justice *vide* BPB); one at Hickman, April 5 (DN, BBC); pairs at Open Pond and Reelfoot NWR, April 20 (BPB). There were two Common Ravens observed at Cumberland Gap, April 4 (BA).

Wrens through Shrikes — It was encouraging that Bewick's Wrens were found at five locations: Glasgow (RS), Elizabethtown (GE), Lake Cumberland area (JEL), Wheatly in Owen County (LMc) and Grayson County (BPB). Single Marsh Wrens were seen at S.S., April 13 (BPB, LR, BA, C. Justice) and Reelfoot NWR, April 21 (BPB). Wood Thrushes were in low numbers this spring. Small flocks of Cedar Waxwings were observed in mid-April (m.ob.), but migration was heaviest on May 19 when about 1000 were present at Shippingport Island (BPB). Only a few Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Boyle (FL) and Grayson Counties (KC).

Vireos through Warblers — A single Bell's Vireo was singing in McCracken County, May 28 (BPB, D. Ebel). A Solitary Vireo at Anchorage on April 6 was a day later than our local record (BM). A Philadelphia Vireo was observed in late April in Danville (W. Kemper *vide* FL).

Warbler migration appeared to be delayed with the best movement during mid-May. Single Brewster's hybrids were at Danville, May 10 (FL, W. Kemper), near Carrollton, May 24 (LMc) and a probable sighting in western Boone County, May 17 (LMc). Parula Warblers had arrived at Land Between the Lakes (DN, BBC) and at Reelfoot NWR, April 6 (BPB). A Worm-eating Warbler at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 6 was fairly early (LR). Also, rather early was a Louisiana Waterthrush at Glasgow, March 22 (RS). Single Connecticut Warblers were present on Shippingport Island, May 19 and 21 and one to three at Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville, May 18-23 (BPB). A Wilson's Warbler in Rockcastle County on May 31 provided a late Kentucky date (FL). The two Canada Warblers near Carrollton, May 24, were rather late stragglers (LMc).

Tanagers through Finches — Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks lingered until May 29 at Trailwood Lake, Shelby County (WB) and June 8 at Big Pond Sanctuary (KC). The occurrence of a Black-headed Grosbeak at Lexington in mid-April was exciting. The bird remained for several days (R. Morris, m. ob.). Blue Grosbeaks were reported from five locations with the earliest at Eubank on May 1 (JEL). The rare Bachman's Sparrow was heard near Hamlin, May 3, where it has been seen in previous years (MM). Fourteen Grasshopper Sparrows were observed at Masterson's

Station Park, Lexington, April 27 (BA). Henslow's Sparrows were heard in Caldwell County, May 6 and six males observed in Grayson County, May 8 (BPB). Bobolinks arrived in low numbers. A single Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Danville on March 8 (FL). The sighting of an Orchard Oriole at Land Between the Lakes on April 6 established an early date (DN, BBC). Northern Orioles were more common at Danville than for some years (FL). Many of the Purple Finches left central Kentucky on March 29 when a warm front moved into the area, but some were still present on May 10 in Boone County (LMc). Pine Siskins were widespread in early to mid-May (m.ob.), but two birds were still present at Big Pond Sanctuary, June 2 (KC). There was some movement of Evening Grosbeaks the latter part of April and early May, particularly at Madisonville (JH) and Burlington (LMc); at least 50 or more present at Big Pond Sanctuary, April 27-28 (KOS).

The writer wishes to thank the many people who contributed notes and records for this Spring Migration Report. Comments on the Nesting Season (June and July) should be mailed no later than *August 5*.

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BALD EAGLE COUNT IN KENTUCKY — 1986

LYNDA ANDREWS AND JAMES DURELL

A new record number of bald eagles (234) was reported on the 1986 census. January 4 was the target date within a time frame of January 2-16. This census was done in conjunction with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl census. The National Wildlife Federation now records only the counts at Ballard County, Lake Barkley and Dale Hollow, rather than the full state census. Weather during the period was clear and seasonably warm.

Of the 234 bald eagles, 148 were mature and 86 (37%) were immature. This count was 64% above last year's total and 6% above the previous record of 1984. Reelfoot Lake was partly frozen over. The large increases on the Mississippi and lower Ohio Rivers probably included Reelfoot eagles seeking open water. Four adult golden eagles were reported below Wolf Creek Dam, and three adults and two immatures at Ballard County

Waterfowl area. The Non-game crew was unable to find those at Ballard County a week later.

Again no eagles were reported from Obion and Mayfield Creek Bottoms nor the lakes in the Barlow Bottoms near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. These were very productive in 1984.

Green River Lake and the Kentucky portion of Dale Hollow also had significant increases. Lake Cumberland had a modest increase, still below the record 1984 count. The Mississippi River count was still far below the 72 seen in 1984.

Table I summarizes the 1986 census, with some earlier high records.

TABLE I—Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 2-16, 1986, with some earlier high counts.

| ROUTE | 1986 | | | Earlier records | |
|--|------|------|-------|-----------------|------|
| | Ad. | Imm. | Total | High | Year |
| Land Between the Lakes | 25 | 13 | 38 | 54 | 1984 |
| Mississippi River | 31 | 15 | 46 | 72 | 1984 |
| Ohio River, Wickliffe to north Livingston Co. (Carrsville)* | 55 | 34 | 89 | 47 | 1984 |
| Ohio River, Carrsville-Owensboro | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1984 |
| Ohio River, Battletown-Louisville | 1 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Green River Lake | 6 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 1985 |
| Dale Hollow, Kentucky portion | 9 | 7 | 16 | 12 | 1983 |
| Lake Cumberland | 7 | 1 | 8 | 14? | 1983 |
| Cumberland R., dam to Burkesville* | 7 | | 8 | | |
| Cave Run Lake | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 1984 |
| Laurel Lake | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 1985 |
| Martin's Fork | | 2 | 2 | 0 | |
| Totals | 148 | 86 | 234 | | |

*Golden eagles were reported.

Twenty-one parties reported other hawks. Counts for 1985 are in parenthesis: American Kestrel 103(105); Redtailed 68(76); Marsh hawk 7(5); Rough-legged 3(1); Red shouldered 3(2); Sharp-shinned 2(1); Cooper's 3(3); Osprey 0(3); unidentified hawks 2(2).

There were 114 participants in 36 parties. They represented the Kentucky Ornithological Society, federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, TVA, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Audubon Society and Owensboro Area Museum. Space does not permit listing these individuals, but their help is gratefully acknowledged, and solicited next year.

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KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP ROLL

The K.O.S. membership roll that follows is current through July 1986. Everyone appreciates having their name spelled correctly and I apologize now for any that are misspelled. This is a great opportunity to ensure that your name will be spelled correctly in the future. Please forward any corrections of names, addresses, membership status, etc. to the editor. Also, let the editor know if you prefer to use a nickname. Thank you.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The K.O.S. Fall Meeting will be held 3-5 October at Kenlake State Park. Mark your calendar now, make your reservations soon and get ready for some good birding. Anyone who would like to share unusual birding experiences or research findings at the Friday evening meeting should contact Jim William, Program Chairman, 480 Seeley Dr., Lexington 40502.

ADDITIONS TO OUR LIFE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

We are pleased to welcome the following members to our growing company of Life Members. These individuals have joined as Life Members since the publication of our 1982 membership roll. They are: Mrs. Irvin Abell, Louisville; Dr. Garrett Adams, Louisville; Fred Busroe, Morehead; Charles Elliott, Richmond; Katherine Fulkerson, Louisville, Dr. Sue Hall, Louisville, Eric Helfrich, Churubusco, Indiana, Harriet A. Korfhage, Louisville; Dr. Richard Peake, Wise, Virginia; Glenn Raleigh, Lexington; Dr. J. Marion Staughan, Wise, Virginia; Dr. Betty Thomas, Shelbyville; William Tucker, Kingston, New Hampshire; and Herbert Zimmerman, Louisville.

We are again reminded of what the late Dr. Gordon Wilson, founder of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, once said: "It is always a mark of faith in the purpose and in the future of our society when someone becomes a Life Member; all of us feel highly honored when additions are made to this portion of our society's membership roll."

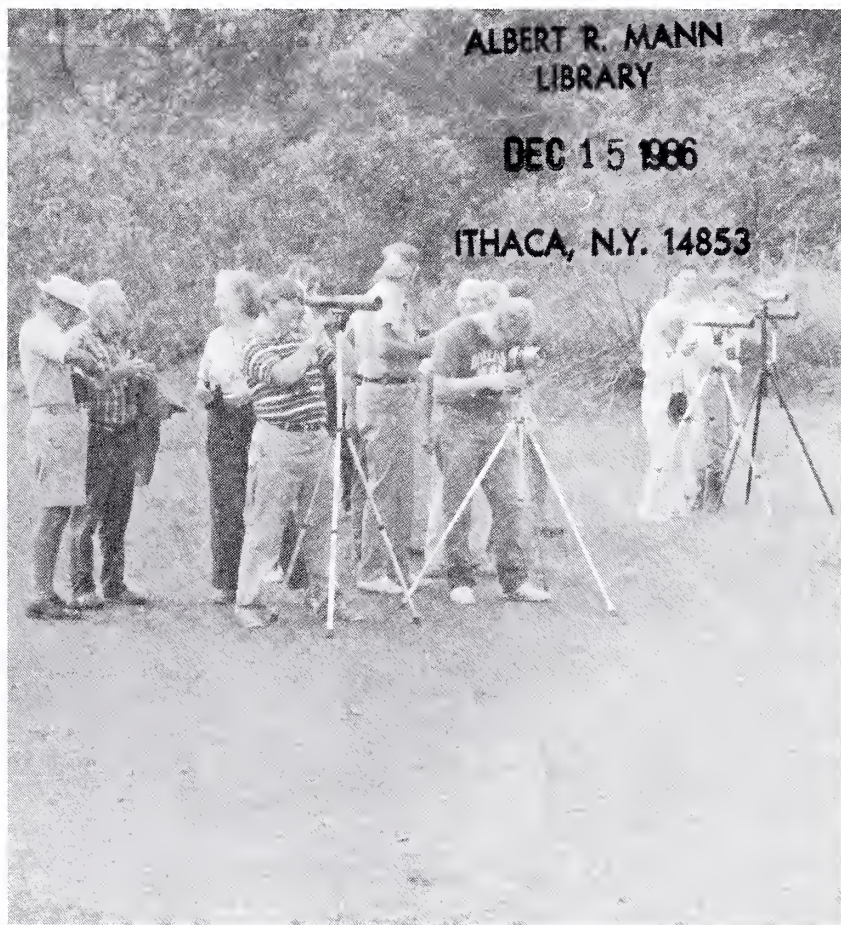
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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

Our thanks to Phillipe Roca for this portrait of enthusiastic birders at Jonathan Creek during the fall meeting held at Kenlake State Resort Park.

METHODS FOR INSPECTION OF CAVITIES IN TREES AND SNAGS

WILLIAM C. MCCOMB AND PATRICIA L. GROETSCH

ABSTRACT

This paper is a summary of practical snag and cavity inspection systems, including access to the cavity, internal cavity inspection, and remote monitoring of use. Advantages and disadvantages of each are discussed. A cavity access method to be used when inspecting cavities in soft snags is described. Biases associated with frequency of inspection are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Recent interest in snags and cavity-trees as important habitat features to cavity-dependent fauna has resulted in a plethora of studies designed to evaluate the importance of snags and cavity-trees to certain species. Despite this recent interest, there is still a lack of information on characteristics of desirable cavity-trees and snags for many species due to the fact that the desirability of a snag or cavity-tree to some species varies geographically (Conner 1978). Additional information on cavity selection, particularly by large cavity-nesters, is necessary throughout their ranges if we are to ensure viable populations and still manage our forests for timber production. Data collection of this type normally entails inspection of cavities for current or prior use, or monitoring of cavities for use over a given period of time (McComb 1979). Methods for access to and inspection of cavities have been presented in the literature (Gysel and Lyons 1980, Moriarty and McComb 1982, Cairns 1983, Speake and Altiere 1983, and others). During the last 6 years, the senior author has been involved with snag and cavity research in bottomland hardwood, upland pine-hardwood, and oak-hickory forests in the southeast and has tried a variety of cavity inspection methods. In an effort to facilitate future studies of snag and cavity use and to promote consistency in data collection among studies, we present methods for cavity inspection in this paper with evaluations on ease of data collection and potential biases. Additionally, a new method of monitoring cavity use is presented.

METHODS

Access to the Cavity

Cavity inspection normally requires climbing a tree or snag. The method of attaining access to a cavity is dependent on the terrain, height of the cavity, frequency of cavity visitation, and soundness of the cavity-bearing tree or snag. Methods available to attain access include interlocking climbing ladders, climbing spurs, 30-cm spikes driven into the tree, and climbing ropes. Regardless of the method, a safety belt should be attached to the cavity-tree or a nearby tree while climbing. Climbing ladders provide a stable support, are quickly assembled at the tree or snag, and they incur little damage to living trees. Constraints on use include height of the cavity, frequency of inspection, and terrain. One person cannot carry more than four 3-m sections at one time for any appreciable distance. Normally, no more than two 3-m sections can be carried by one person during a day.

Climbing spurs are lighter to carry than are ladders, allow access to most living portions of trees, and are relatively safe when used with a safety belt. Spurs are not as effective on tree species with thick or loose bark, such as chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*) or shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), as on thin-barked trees. Also, repeated use of spurs will leave scars on the tree, thus providing avenues of infection and degradation of wood quality. Such damage may bias cavity use by enhancing fungal infections in the tree or by attracting insects. Inspection of cavities no more than four times per year (seasonally) is recommended with climbing spurs.

Spikes 30-cm long driven into the tree provide a permanent ladder to cavities in remote locations that must be visited frequently (one or more times per month). Once the initial time investment has been spent in placing these spikes into the tree, many cavities can be accessed very quickly within a given area. Obvious disadvantages of this method are: 1) the tree cannot be sold for timber, which is rarely a problem with cavity-trees and 2) the presence of the spikes may enhance or decrease the value of the cavity-tree to some species and hence bias results of cavity use.

Ropes may be used to climb open-grown trees with large branches within several meters of the ground (Gysel 1961). Within a mature stand, self-pruning usually results in few branches suitable for using ropes for the first 10-m of the hole. Also, if ropes are left in trees to attain access on successive days or weeks, rodents may gnaw on the rope and weaken it.

Some cavities located in snags may not be safely reached by ladders, spurs, spikes, or ropes, so we have devised a cable system to reach some of these cavities. Two trees are selected such that the snag lies on a line between the trees. Each tree is climbed to a height of approximately 1 m higher along a level surface than the height of the cavity in the snag. A 1-cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") cable is stretched between the trees and is attached to each tree with two cable clamps. In order for the investigator to be able to approach the cavity via the cable, a harness system was devised. This system is composed of a sit-harness with a standard oval carabiner attached at the waist, which is connected to 1-inch webbing. This webbing leads to a second carabiner. Once in the harness, the investigator is able to attach himself to the cable with the second carabiner and proceed hand-over-hand to the cavity. The cable may have to be adjusted in height depending upon the distance spanned and the weight of the investigator. Cavities in the snag below the cable can be accessed by attaching a rope to the cable so that the rope falls parallel to the snag. The sit-harness is attached by way of 1-inch webbing to a standard oval carabiner connected to an ascender. The ascender is attached to the rope at chest-level. Two stirrups made of 1-inch webbing are used to attach the observer's feet to the rope with another ascender and carabiner at approximately waist-level. This method of ascending a rope is referred to as the "two-footed Texas ascending system." The observer can access the rope either at ground-level or from the cable. We recommend that a chest-harness be used in conjunction with this system. Once the observer is attached to the rope by the ascenders, he can either ascend or descend by moving the ascenders up or down one by one (Larson and Larson 1982:215-218). Potential bias is introduced by this method in providing additional access to the cavity for predators if the cable is left in place. Cavities in soft snags above crown level or where two trees do not align with the snag can only be examined by destructive sampling.

Cavity Inspection

Traditionally, cavities have been inspected by lights and dental mirrors on periscope devices (DeWeese et al. 1975, Seidensticker and Kilham 1969). These methods work well for most animal-made cavities where the occupants are directly below the lip of the cavity. For heart-rot formed cavities with irregular interiors, we have found a fiber optics system superior to previous methods (Moriarty and McComb 1982). Jackson (1976) found that glass windows placed in the side of the cavity allowed continual observation of the inhabitants for behavioral studies.

Remote monitoring of cavities allows an investigator to know the number of exits and entrances made at a cavity and, with sufficient equipment, what time the entrances and exits occurred and by what species. Previous investigators have used swinging gate entrances (Simons 1981), mercury switches (McComb 1979), and micro-switches (Carlson and Sloan 1976) to activate an event recorder. All of these methods force the animal to contact an unnatural surface upon entering and exiting a cavity so cavity use may be biased. We are using an infra-red light-emitting diode (LED for activating event recorders at cavities and nest boxes. The LED's are 3 cm x 3 cm x 0.5 cm in size, span a distance of 7-10 cm, and are available at a cost of about \$4.00 each. Since the light emitted is infra-red, there is no apparent barrier or contact that the animal must make to activate an event recorder. LED switches can be used with any appropriate voltage counter (McComb 1979), event recorder (Carlson and Sloan 1976, Simons 1981), or photographic equipment (Temple 1972, Goetz 1981). The switches may be attached directly to the cavity entrance or to a yoke prior to placement at the cavity to facilitate alignment of the beam across the entrance.

Frequency of Cavity Inspection

The frequency with which cavities should be inspected will be the result of a compromise between collecting the maximum amount of data and avoiding biasing use of the cavities. If an organism uses any one cavity once during a year, the chance of finding that organism in that cavity if checked once each year is $1/365$ (100) or 0.3%. If inspections are seasonal (four times per year), that chance is increased to 1.1%, and monthly inspections increase chances to 3.3%. Inspections more frequent than once a week will likely bias use of cavities by some species, but even an inspection rate this frequent will result in only one chance in seven (14.3%) of finding an organism in a cavity or nest box. Of course the chance of discovering use of a cavity by species that use one cavity for many months or that will leave scats, nests, hair, or feathers is greatly increased, but the chance of finding cavity use by species that do not leave signs of use or may change cavities frequently, such as reptiles, amphibians, or some invertebrates, is reduced. Indeed, it should not be surprising to find low reptile and amphibian use of cavities if inspections are less frequent than weekly (McComb and Noble 1981). Furthermore, data collected infrequently will not likely be normally distributed and may have to be transformed to normality before analysis or analyzed nonparametrically.

Continuous monitoring of cavity use is more costly, but it provides substantially more information on total use of a cavity. We recommend monitoring a subsample of cavities with continuous monitoring devices while inspecting a large sample of cavities at least monthly for birds and mammals, or weekly for reptiles and amphibians.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1986

ANNE L. STAMM

The summer of 1986 was hot, especially in July. At Louisville June temperatures ranged in the nineties during the last few days of the month and precipitation was deficient by more than one inch, while July had 17 days 90 to 96 degrees with above-normal precipitation. The hot, dry weather (with rainfall below normal for the year) apparently produced a fairly successful nesting season. In late June, however, high water in western Kentucky and at the Falls of the Ohio on various dates, due to heavy rains above Kentucky, affected ground nesting species.

Breeding Bird Surveys, in some locations, showed a decrease in numbers of many species. Purple Martins showed some decline in many areas. Bewick's Wrens disappeared from Murray, while on the more positive side Tree Swallows were found nesting in new locations. House Finches continued to expand their breeding range with nesting now confirmed in Pulaski, Boone and Calloway Counties. Other positive news included the fledging of four Barn Owls and the confirmation of Great Egrets nesting in southern Ballard County.

Grebes through Herons — A Pied-billed Grebe was present at Burlington, Boone County on June 30 and July 1, but no evidence of breeding (LMc). An adult Double-crested Cormorant was reported at Lake #9 on July 31 (CP). A colony of Great Blue Herons was checked in Union County and held 432+ nests on June 3 (BPB, J. MacGregor of the Nongame Department); common in Ballard County (CP) and many of these birds may have come from the colony at Axe Lake Swamp which was checked on June 23 and found to contain 100 nests (BPB, S. and M. Evans, C. Justis). This colony originally described by Burt L. Monroe, Sr. in 1937 contained 300 nests (*Ky. Warbler*, 13:13, 1937). Little is known of this colony from 1937 to 1983 when B. P. Pullin of the TVA made an aerial survey of the water-birds in Kentucky and Tennessee and found 106 nests in March 1983. Later during July 1983 Sherri and Marc Evans made a ground survey and found 110 nests of which 87 were active. The colony is on private land and entrance is restricted and requires a boat (S. Evans, 1984 unpublished report KDFWR). Great Blue Herons were also common in Marshall County (CP); small numbers in Fulton County, June 5 (S, DS, FS), Hopkins County (JH) and Falls of the Ohio (LR). Two fledged young Great Egrets and two nests containing large, dead young were found at the Axe Lake Swamp Great Blue Heronry, June 25 (BPB, S. and M. Evans, C. Justis). This is the first known nesting of the Great Egret in the state since 1951. Ten Great Egrets were seen at Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter Reelfoot NWR) and five at Lake #9 on June 5 (S, FS, DS) and 46 at the latter location on July 31 (CP). A Snowy Egret was observed at the Falls of the Ohio on June 19 (LR) and one at Swan Lake, Ballard County, June 29 (BPB). Fair numbers of Little Blue Herons were observed: one adult at Swan Lake on June 4 and a group of 12 adults feeding in southern Fulton County, June 5 (S, FS, DS): four adults in Ballard County, June 8 (CP, MM); and fifteen adults at Swan Lake, June 29 (BPB *et al.*). There were three Cattle Egret nests and 10 adult birds present on Shippingport Island on July 15 (BPB); one at Swan Lake, June 29 (BPB *et al.*). Green-backed Herons appeared to be in low numbers: singles in Henry and Shelby

Counties (S); four at the Falls of the Ohio, June 21 (LR); three nests containing young in the western Clark County Black-crowned Night Heron colony, June 25 and a small group nesting on an island in Lake Barkley, June 25 (BPB, J. MacGregor). The Black-crowned Night Heronry on Shippingport Island was not accurately surveyed this year, but a comparable number of the approximately 250 nests appeared to be active (BPB). The colony at Lake Barkley was checked on June 4 and it was estimated to contain 100 nests with some birds still incubating eggs (BPB, J. MacGregor). A new colony of Black-crowned Night Herons was discovered in western Clark County by Tom Edwards of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. The colony was later checked on June 25 and 28 nests were counted, but only one young bird was still present (BPB, J. MacGregor, G. Jacoby). Nests of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron were found in three locations: Lexington (BA), Shippingport (BPB, BBC) and a new nesting area on the Jenny Hole Unit of Slough WMA in northeastern Union County (Mike Morton of the KDFWR, BPB, J. MacGregor); several birds sighted at Blizzard Ponds, McCracken County, June 9-10 (BPB, M. Evans).

Waterfowl — A Canada Goose was found nesting on an artificial nest platform at the Lexington Reservoir (BA) and a single bird was present on the Falls of the Ohio during most of the period (m. ob.). Wood Ducks apparently had a good year. Five females with broods totaling 40 birds were seen in Boone County, a female with 10 young in Owen County (LMC); other broods included five young in Washington County (JC, BC), 10 in Fayette County (BA) and young fledged (no number given) at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC). Fourteen rather large young Mallards were with an adult along the stream in Seneca Park, Louisville on July 6 (S, FS). Blue-winged Teal are uncommon in summer, but a pair was observed below McAlpine Dam, July 2 (LR). Young Hooded Mergansers were seen on the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, June 21 (BPB).

Raptors — Since the hacking program Ospreys have been more widely reported: one at the Falls of the Ohio observed on numerous occasions from June 20 (LR) to July 30 (S, FS); one unsuccessful nesting on a tall tower line at Lake Barkley (ER, BPB); one at Kentucky Lake with one young (BPB, ER) and one with two young in Livingston County (BPB). One of the latter pair was a banded bird by Kentucky FWS and successfully hacked several years ago. A number of Mississippi Kites were reported: two along the levee in Fulton County, June 5 (DS, S, FS); one at Ballard Wildlife Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on July 8 (MM, CP); five at Middle Bar, in the Mississippi River, Hickman County, July 9 (BPB, J. MacGregor); and two along the levee southwest of Hickman, Fulton County, July 31 (CP). The observation of several Bald Eagles during the period was of interest: two flying south over the levee in Fulton County, June 5 (S, FS, DS); two immatures in east Shelby County, July 27 (*vide* WB); and sighted occasionally in the Land Between the Lakes area (ER). Single Cooper's Hawks were reported at the following locations during June: Fulton County (DS, S, FS), Grayson County (KC), two locations in Taylor County and in Franklin County (BPB). A nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk was seen in Grayson County (KC) and singles were reported at two locations in Hopkins County. Single Broad-winged Hawks were observed near Worthville in Owen County and near Jonesville, Grant County and may have nested there (LMC); also observed on several occasions at Bedford, Trimble County (JY). Nests of the Red-tailed Hawk were found at Taylorsport, Richwood and Verona, all in Boone County (LMC); and in

Boyle County (FL). American Kestrels were reported as more widespread than usual (JC) and numerous in western Kentucky (CP). An immature Peregrine Falcon was present at the Falls a number of times: July 14 (BPB), July 17, 31 (LR) and sitting on the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge on July 30 (S, FS).

Wild Turkey through Moorhen — There was a high yield of young Wild Turkeys this year in the Land Between the Lakes Area (ER). Four Common Moorhens were still present at the Sauberheber Unit of Sloughs WMA on June 21 (BPB).

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration began in early July with the arrival of both the Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and the Short-billed Dowitcher. A number of species were late in arriving and numbers were low, with the exception of the peeps. The only Semipalmated Plovers were the nine at Lake #9, Fulton County, July 31 (CP). Killdeer were common to abundant in western Kentucky (CP), nests with young were found at Burlington and East Bend, Boone County (LMc); some 30 birds were on the Falls of the Ohio on July 30, but the high water on several occasions may have interfered with successful nesting (FS). An Avocet was present at the Falls of the Ohio on July 20 and tied Louisville's 1977 record (BPB, R. Klapheke). A single Willet was seen at Smithland Dam, Livingston County on June 22 (BPB) and another at Lake #9 on July 31 (CP). Although Spotted Sandpipers were observed in small numbers at the Falls of the Ohio, the high water on several dates probably prevented successful nesting; also, a pair noted July 9 on a Mississippi sandbar, Hickman County (BPB). A single Sanderling at the Falls of the Ohio on July 27 was the only one reported (LR). Two Least and two Semipalmated Sandpipers returned to BWMA July 8 (MM, CP). The only concentration of shorebirds included 300 Least Sandpipers and a flock of 700 sandpiper species at Lake #9 on July 31 (CP). A Short-billed Dowitcher was observed and heard at BWMA on July 8 (MM, CP). An American Woodcock was flushed at Blizzard Ponds, June 10 (BPB).

Gulls through Terns — Two Laughing Gulls were still present at Kentucky Dam, June 4 (BPB), and 12 to 25 Ring-billed Gulls were there on three dates between June 4-22 (BPB); one Ring-billed flying over the Falls of the Ohio, July 31 (S). Two to five Herring Gulls were seen at Kentucky Dam in June and last observed there on June 22 and one to five at the Falls of the Ohio June 15-19 (BPB). A few terns were reported: a Caspian at Kentucky Dam, June 22 (BPB); two Least Terns at Swan Pond on June 4 (S, DS, FS); one at the Falls of the Ohio, June 15 (BPB). Several nests of the Least Tern were reported upstream from Paducah in June by the Corps of Engineers, but were unsuccessful due to high water in late June. In the survey made along the Mississippi by John W. Smith of the Missouri Department of Conservation there were approximately 120 nests on a sandbar downstream from Middle Bar, Hickman County, several smaller colonies in Fulton County and about 30 nests in Carlisle County, but some of these were destroyed by high water, although the colony in Hickman County was successful (*fide* BPB). The large colony was visited on July 9 by John MacGregor, Jeremy Dreier and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and they saw many nests and young. A single Black Tern was noted at Smithland Dam on June 11 (BPB, Sherri and Marc Evans).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — A Black-billed Cuckoo in northeast Pulaski County on June 8 was the only one reported (JEL). Few Yellow-

billed Cuckoos were observed in Jefferson, Henry and Shelby Counties (S), but a nest with one egg and one young was found at Union, Boone County, July 19 (LMc). The Chuck-will's-widow was last heard calling in Hopkins County on July 18 (JH). Common Night Hawks were scarce in the Louisville area (S). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were common in the Madisonville area where as many as 10 were counted at Bonnie West's feeder (JH); also common in Grayson County (KC) and fair numbers in Jefferson and Shelby Counties (S). Red-headed Woodpeckers were common in early June at Columbus-Belmont State Park, Hickman County and in southern Fulton County (S, DS, FS); other June sightings in Boone, Carroll and Owen Counties (LMc). Four Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen at dusk at a nest cavity in Laurel County, July 4 (DN, J. R. Noonan) and at least two there on July 7 (DN *et al.*).

Flycatchers through Swallows — Willow Flycatchers were observed and heard calling in six counties: Ballard (S), Livingston, Trigg (BPB), Hopkins (JH, B. West), Boone (LMc) and Washington (JC, BC). Four Least Flycatchers were noted on Black Mountain, Harlin County, June 22 (DN, M. Pike). Broods of Eastern Phoebe were observed at Glasgow (RS) and at Shakertown (BA). The Purple Martin colony in Ballard County which had at least 75 pairs nesting in 1984 had a much reduced number this season with approximately 35 pairs (S, DS, FS). There was a successful nesting of the Tree Swallow at Somerset, Pulaski County and established the first breeding record for that County (JEL). Other Tree Swallow nests reported included one each in Grant (LMc), Henderson (BPB), and Shelby (*vide* BPB) Counties; family groups in Ballard and Livingston Counties (BPB). Tree Swallows were beginning to gather in flocks on July 31 when 20 or more were observed along the Portland Canal (S, FS). No Northern Rough-winged Swallows were found at the roadside colony in Henry County where in recent years they had nested (S, FS). The Bank Swallow colony at Petersburg, Boone County, showed a mild decline while the Bellevue colony showed a substantial increase with approximately 80 nesting burrows and adults feeding young throughout June (LMc). Other Bank Swallow colonies along the Ohio River included one on June 29 below Smithland Dam with 150 birds and one downstream from Chalk Bluff with 75 burrows (BPB, J. Dreier, J. MacGregor); two in Carroll County with 150 active burrows in one and 70 in the other, totaling some 400 birds (S, DS, FS). A visit to the Carroll County colonies on July 27 showed the top soil removed from one side of the larger colony where the majority of the burrows were located. Adult birds were feeding young in late May and hopefully the majority of the young fledged before the destruction of the nesting sites; only two Bank Swallows were present on the latter date (S, FS). On a BBS in Henry and Shelby Counties only five Barn Swallows were recorded as compared to 18 last year (S). At least 138 active nests of Cliff Swallows were seen on Barkley Dam with 400+ birds flying to and from the nests and over the water on June 3 (S, DS, FS); two nesting sites, near Hardin, Calloway County (CP). The Cliff Swallow colony under the bridge, near Hamilton, Boone County, showed a decline with only 14 active nests compared to 29 last year (LMc).

Corvidae through Shrikes — The Fish Crow at Jonathan Creek, Marshall County, July 4, was of interest (CP); also observed at BWMA on July 8 (MM, CP); two downstream from Middle Bar along the Mississippi River, Hickman County, July 9 and one along the Ohio in Ballard County (BPB). An adult Common Raven and a very young fledgling were observed

on Black Mountain, June 22 (DN, M. Pike). A group of three or four Brown Creepers was seen at Axe Lake Swamp on June 29 and nesting was suspected (BPB, C. Justis, S. and M. Evans). There were few reports on the Carolina Wren, but successful nesting was observed in Louisville and at Big Pond Sanctuary (S, KC). The Bewick's Wren was absent from Murray where one to two were present in recent years (CP); one was seen at Somerset on July 18 and may have nested since one was heard there on May 19 (JEL). A nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found near Union, Boone County on June 7 with an adult incubating (LMc). Eastern Bluebirds had a very successful year at Land Between the Lakes (ER). Eight Veeries were seen on Black Mountain, Harlin County on June 22 (DN, M. Pike). Of particular interest was the discovery of an egg of the Brown-headed Cowbird in the nest of a Brown Thrasher, an uncommon victim of the species (LMc). Breeding records of the Loggerhead Shrike included two broods in Calloway County (MM); three young with adults in Washington County (JC, BC) and a nest with three young in Grant County (K. Caminiti *vide* LMc); also several adult birds observed along the roadside in Hickman County, June 4 and Fulton County, June 5 (S, DS, FS).

Vireo through Warblers — A pair of Solitary Vireos was observed in upper Bad Branch on Pine Mountain, Letcher County, June 7 (BPB). A Blue-winged Warbler was heard singing at Blizzard Pond on June 9 (BPB) and summering Northern Parulas were present at East Bend and Middle Creek (LMc). An adult Pine Warbler was seen feeding young at Cumberland Falls State Park on May 18 (DN, P. Noble) and one singing at Ilsley, Hopkins County on June 6 suggested breeding (JH). Singing Cerulean Warblers were present at Elk Creek on June 5 (F. Clayton *vide* JH) and northeast of Madisonville on June 27 (JH). A broken-wing act was put on by a Worm-eating Warbler, near Union, June 7 (LMc). Single Swainson's Warblers were reported in McCreary County in early June (B. Peterjohn *vide* BPB) and at Bad Branch, June 7 (BPB). An adult Common Yellowthroat was observed feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird in Carroll County (LMc). Common Yellowthroats were more numerous on the BBS in southern Hopkins and northern Christian Counties than last year (AS), but still below that of 1984. Three male Canada Warblers were noted on Black Mountain on June 22 where the species breeds on the higher elevations (DN, M. Pike). Although the Yellow-breasted Chat disappeared from some areas in Hopkins County (JH) the BBS showed numbers up over last year (AS).

Tanagers through Finches — The Scarlet Tanager was recorded at two locations in Hopkins County during July where it is a rare summer resident (JH). Fewer Blue Grosbeaks were reported this year, but they were sighted at four locations in Hopkins County (JH), one in Pulaski County (JEL) and two in Fulton County (S, DS). An adult Dickcissel was seen carrying food to young in southern Fulton County on June 4, where they were numerous along state road 94 and along the levee (S, FS, DS); three birds in Spencer County, June 7 (JC, BC); and two on territory at Masterson Station Park, Fayette County in mid-June (BPB, BBC). Two male Bachman's Sparrows were seen near Hardin, Calloway County (no date given) by Clell Peterson. Another rather unusual bird was the Lark Sparrow, about six miles south of Falmouth, Pendleton County, June 18 (BPB, S. Evans, L. Andrews, C. Justis); also one along Crooked Creek, Lewis County, July 1 (S. Evans *vide* BPB). Two to three Savannah Sparrows were seen at Bedford, Trimble County on July 10 (JY) and singing

birds noted in southwest Oldham County during the summer (BPB). There seemed to be an increase in the number of nesting Grasshopper Sparrows this year. The Eastview BBS in Hardin and Breckenridge Counties showed 20 as compared to one in 1985 (BM); other June records were in Grant, Owen (LMc), Pulaski (JEl), and Fayette Counties (JW). The Song Sparrow was recorded at three locations in Hopkins County (JH) and there were three singing males, widely spaced, in Ballard County (CP); and numbers were up on the Pleasureville BBS (S). Bobolinks were present in fair numbers at Masterson Station Park and females were carrying food in early June (BBC). The field was cut during the breeding season and may have caused loss of young (JW). Strangely enough, the Common Grackle showed a decrease on the Pleasureville BBS with only 112 birds this year compared to 195 last June (S). A nest of the Orchard Oriole was found at Wheatley, Owen County, May 24 (LMc). Northern Orioles were fairly common at Columbus-Belmont State Park, Swan Lake and along the Mississippi River in Fulton County (S, DS, FS). Successful nesting of the House Finch was recorded in Boone County (LMc), Pulaski (JEl) and Calloway Counties (CP). Also, two broods were raised again in a hanging fern plant in the Louisville area (WJ). Some movement of the House Finch was noted on July 31 when a flock of 30 was seen in a yard on Spokane Way, Louisville (S).

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— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall Meeting — October 3-5, 1986

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 63rd annual Fall Meeting at Kenlake State Park on October 3-5, 1986.

Members and guests were welcomed to the Friday evening session by President Fred Busroe. Jim Williams detailed the following day's field trips, then introduced the speakers for the evening. Anne Stamm described the donated art prints on display, which were available for sale to KOS members. Blaine Ferrell presented slides of his recent trip to Alaska. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. provided information on the current status of the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas, and Phillipe Roca concluded the program with a slide presentation of some of his photography and a discussion of the possible production of a calendar with bird photographs. A social hour followed the evening session.

Overcast skies and mild temperatures greeted those participating on Saturday morning field trips. A 6:00 a.m. walk around the lodge area was followed by 8:00 a.m. trips, one to Jonathan Creek and Lake Barkley led by Clell Peterson, and the other to Hematite Lake led by Blaine Ferrell.

At 2:00 p.m. Sue Draper discussed with members the activities and current work of the Land Between the Lakes Association.

The Board of Directors met at the Lodge at 4:00 p.m.

The evening program began with dinner at 6:30 p.m., then was followed by a presentation by Fred Busroe on his recent summer birding trip to Michigan.

A brief business meeting followed the program. The Treasurer's report was given and current KOS membership totals were announced. Dates and localities for upcoming meetings were announced as follows: 1987 Spring Meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on April 24-26, and 1987 Fall Meeting at Natural Bridge State Park on September 25-27. Anne Stamm presented the following slate of officers from the Nominating Committee: President — Fred Busroe, Vice President — Jim Williams, Corresponding Secretary — Harriet Korfhage, Recording Secretary — Lee McNeely, and Councillors — Wendell Kingsolver, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Dennis Sandlin, and Thomas Stevenson. All were elected for the coming year as presented.

Jim Williams led members in compiling the day's bird list, with a total of 103 species seen through Saturday. A Sunday morning field trip was announced for 8:30 a.m. to Jonathan Creek.

Additional birds seen on Sunday brought the weekend total to 117 species. Total registrations for the Fall Meeting were 76.

BIRDS RECORDED ON FIELD TRIPS DURING THE FALL MEETING AT KENLAKE STATE RESORT PARK October 3-5, 1986

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail*, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon*, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping

Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl*, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird*, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow*, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet*, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush*, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit*, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler*, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler*, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler*, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler*, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird*, Connecticut Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. Those species marked by an asterisk were observed on Sunday. The species total was 117.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING, 1986

BLANDVILLE: Newton Belt.

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine and Priscilla Ferrell, William and Ruth Mathes, H. E. and Jacky Shadowen.

BUCKHORN: Dennis Sandlin, Eileen Sandlin.

BURLINGTON: Lee and Lynda McNeely, Tommie and Karen Stephens.

CARLISLE: Wendell and Virginia Kingsolver.

CRITTENDEN: Joe and Kathy Caminiti.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH: Judith Williams.

GILBERTSVILLE: E. J. and Madelyn Conrad.

GLASGOW: Howard and Frances Jones.

HAZARD: Donnie Spencer and children.

HICKMAN: Phillip Drake.

LEXINGTON: Michael and Jean Flynn, Phillipe Roca, Andy Uterhart, Jim and Gerry Williams.

LOUISVILLE: Roland and Marie Blahnik, Altha Cain, Richard Cassell, Kathryn Clay, Katherine Colburn, Diane Ebel, R. L. and Virginia Hectorne, Tim Love, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, F. W. and Anne Stamm, Donald Summerfield, Larry Ysunza.

MACEO: Albert and Mildred Powell.

MARION: Mike and Pat O'Hara.

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe.

MURRAY: Happy Chambers, Sally Leedham, Michael Miller, Clell Peterson.

OWENSBORO: Mike Brown, Lydia Greenwell, John Humphrey, W. T.

Perkins, L. E. and Eleanor Wilson.
 PADUCAH: Bernice Caddell.
 PRINCETON: Robert and Emelene Rowland.
 STANLEY: Thomas and Anna Lee Stevenson.
 WILMORE: Tom Rae.
 CINCINNATI, OHIO: Jeff and Holly Hawkins.
 DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE: Kenneth and Betty Leggett.
 JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA: Stuart and Mary Ann Jenkins.
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Mary Edds.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Fiscal Year 1985-1986

GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance, September 16, 1985 \$1,763.06

Receipts

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Membership Dues | \$2,671.50 | |
| Interest Income: | | |
| Endowment Fund | 388.60 | |
| Wilson Fund | 129.90 | |
| Fall Meeting | 115.00 | |
| Spring Meeting | 137.00 | |
| Sale of Warblers, check lists, etc. | 104.25 | |
| American Ornithological Society | 210.00 | 3,756.25 |
| | | \$5,519.31 |

Disbursements

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Printing: | | |
| Kentucky Warbler (5 issues) | \$2,541.04 | |
| Envelopes | 189.00 | |
| Postage | 318.97 | |
| Treasurer's Expenses | 61.20 | |
| Fall Meeting | 22.53 | |
| Spring Meeting | 21.60 | |
| Supplies | 44.98 | |
| Transfer Life Membership (7) to Endowment Fund ... | 525.00 | |
| Transfer Gift (C. Noland) to Endowment Fund | 250.00 | |
| Transfer to Wilson Fund | 129.00 | |
| Bank Charges | 18.49 | |
| Refund — Over-payment Life Membership | 76.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 7.00 | 4,205.71 |
| | | \$1,313.60 |
| Bank Balance, September 23, 1986 | | |

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance in Savings Account, Future Federal | |
| September 16, 1985 | \$ 829.07 |
| Certificate of deposit (4) | 4,500.00 |
| | \$5,329.07 |

Receipts**Interest Income:**

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Certificate of Deposit | \$ 388.60 | |
| Savings Account | 60.70 | |
| Life Memberships (7) | 525.00 | |
| Gift from C. Noland Estate | 250.00 | \$1,224.30 |
| | | <u>\$6,553.37</u> |

Disbursements

| | | |
|---|--------|--------------------------|
| Transfer to General Fund | 388.60 | |
| | | <u>\$6,164.77</u> |
| Balance in Savings Account, Future Federal, September 23, 1986 | | \$1,664.77 |
| Certificates of Deposit: | | |
| 2 @ \$1,000.00 each Great Financial Federal | | |
| 1 @ \$1,500.00 Future Federal | | |
| 1 @ \$1,000.00 Future Federal | | 4,500.00 |
| | | <u>\$6,164.77</u> |
| Balance in Fund, September 23, 1986 | | <u><u>\$6,164.77</u></u> |

GORDON WILSON FUND

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Balance in Savings Account, September 16, 1985 | \$1,191.81 |
| Certificates of Deposit (2) @ \$1,000 | |
| Great Financial Federal | 2,000.00 |
| | <u>\$3,191.81</u> |

Receipts

| | | |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Interest on Savings Account | \$ 66.92 | |
| Interest on Certificates of Deposit | 129.90 | 196.82 |
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>\$3,388.63</u> |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Balance in Fund, September 23, 1986 | |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$2,000.00 |
| Savings Account | 1,388.63 |
| | <u>\$3,388.63</u> |

**BALANCE SHEET
September 23, 1986****Assets:**

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Cash General Fund | \$ 1,313.60 |
| Endowment Fund | 6,164.77 |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 3,388.63 |
| | <u>Total</u> |
| | <u>\$10,867.00</u> |
| Net Worth | <u>\$10,867.00</u> |

FIELD NOTES

NESTING OF HERONS ON SHIPPINGPORT ISLAND

On 18 August 1984, the authors and Marc Evans, John MacGregor and Max Medley visited Shippingport Island, adjacent to the Falls of the Ohio, in search of the location of a nesting colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) suspected of being somewhere on the island. The nesting colony was successfully located in a grove of white mulberry trees (*Morus alba*) ranging from 20-40 feet in height, and approximately 200 active nests were counted.

Much to our surprise, several nests of Cattle Egrets (*Bulbuleus ibis*) containing half-grown young were discovered within the colony. Several adult Cattle Egrets were observed flying overhead, and at least four nests were counted, each containing 3-4 young. The presence of Cattle Egrets in the nesting colony took us by complete surprise since *none* had been observed in the area all year. Based on this fact, it is entirely possible that nesting of Cattle Egrets had gone undetected in the area prior to 1984.

In 1985, this nesting colony was regularly checked as part of a study of avifauna in the vicinity of the Falls of the Ohio for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Black-crowned Night-Herons were first noted on March 29 when over fifty birds were counted in the leafless trees, perching on the previous year's nests. Courtship and nesting commenced immediately, and in early May Cattle Egrets were observed for the first time. By early July, both young Black-crowned Night-Herons and Cattle Egrets were beginning to fledge, and on July 12 a single nest of Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) was located in the colony.

The Little Blue Heron nest was located among the shorter trees in the colony near the eastern edge and in close proximity to the Cattle Egret nests. The presence of a Little Blue Heron nest in this vicinity had been suspected due to periodic observations of a pair of adults in the area since mid-May. When first discovered, the Little Blue Heron nest contained five nearly full-grown young. The young birds' plumages were entirely white except for dusky tips on the primaries, as is characteristic of this species. Some down was still visible during the first two weeks of observations. The bills were chalky in color and the legs were pale yellow-green.

The young birds were observed being fed by an adult on several occasions. After fledging, the immature Little Blue Herons remained in trees near the colony for several weeks while the adults continued to feed them. In mid-August, they were observed feeding nearby in the shallow pools of the fossil beds at the Falls of the Ohio. Interestingly, the adults were last seen in the area on 15 August, departing over a month before the immatures, which were last observed there on 23 September.

In addition to the pair of Little Blue Herons, the colony also contained the nests of approximately 275 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons and five pairs of Cattle Egrets in 1985. In addition, four pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax violacea*) and two pairs of Green-backed Herons (*Butorides striatus*) nested on another part of the island.

Shippingport Island becomes the fourth known nesting location for the Louisville area's well-known Black-crowned Night-Heron population in the past fifty years. All previous nesting locations, Six-Mile Island upstream from Louisville (used from about 1930 to 1948; Mengel, *The Birds of Kentucky*, A.O.U. Monograph 3, 1965), Goose Island just below the

fossil beds of the Falls of the Ohio (used from 1949 until the early 1960s; Smith, Ky. Warbler 26: 6-8, 1950) and Sand Island downstream from the Falls (used from 1962 for about the next 5-10 years; Wiley, Ky. Warbler 40:3-5, 1964) have been abandoned, and prior to 1984, the location of the nesting colony had been unknown for approximately ten years. In addition, this is one of only three active Black-crowned Night-Heron nesting colonies in the state, the other two being located on an island near the southern end of Lake Barkley, Trigg County (Thomas, Ky. Warbler 58(2):35, 1982) and in western Clark County (John MacGregor, pers. comm.).

The 1985 nesting of the Little Blue Herons is the second reported in Kentucky, the only other nesting occurred in the Lake Barkley colony from 1981-1983. This nesting colony has been declining in recent years for reasons not fully understood and has not contained Little Blue Herons over the past two years (Evans, unpubl. report).

Shippingport is now one of three known nesting locations of Cattle Egrets in the state, the only other locations being the Lake Barkley colony where at least one pair nested in 1981 and a Mississippi River sandbar in Fulton County where approximately 55 pairs nested in 1984 (Evans, unpubl. report; Stamm, Ky. Warbler 60:51, 1984). Cattle Egrets were absent from both locations in 1985.

Finally, Shippingport is one of less than a dozen known nesting locations of Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the state, and the Yellow-crowned Night Heron nesting in 1985 represents the first reported in the Louisville area since 1976 (Kleen, Amer. Birds 30:961-965, 1976).

Obviously Shippingport Island is a highly significant nesting area for herons in Kentucky. Fortunately, the island is jointly owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisville Gas and Electric Company and is not open to the public without authorization. It is also part of the recently designated Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area, a designation intended to protect this unique area and the wildlife which depend upon it. — BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR. and SHERRI A. EVANS. 8207 Old Westport Rd., Louisville, KY 40222.

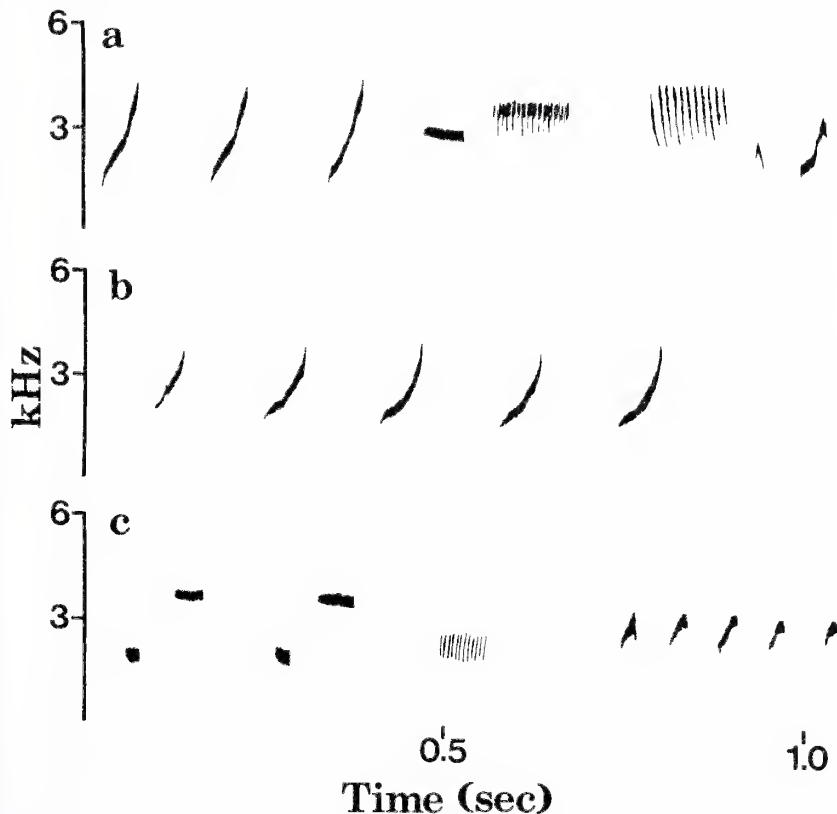
SONG SPARROW MIMICS SONG OF NORTHERN CARDINAL

The imitation of conspecifics plays an important role in song learning in many species of birds. With the exception of a few groups (e. g., mimids), imitation of the vocalizations of other species is uncommon. Among emberizids, the occasional imitation of heterospecifics has been noted in the Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) (Kroodsma, Wilson Bull. 84:173-178, 1972), Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), and Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) (Borror, Ohio J. Sci. 68:129-138, 1968), and White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) (Baptista and Morton, Auk 98:383-385, 1981). There have been few reports of interspecific mimicry in the Song Sparrow (*Zonotrichia melodia*). Kroodsma (Anim. Behav. 25:390-399, 1976) raised Song Sparrows in captivity and noted that some birds copied song elements from Canaries (*Serinus canaria*). Marler and Peters (Science 198:519-521, 1977) also raised Song Sparrows in captivity and reported that these birds learned components of Swamp Sparrow (*Zonotrichia georgiana*) song. I could find only one report of interspecific mimicry by free-living Song Sparrows. In this study, Eberhardt and Baptista (Bird-Banding 48: 193-205, 1977) described Song Sparrows in California whose songs included components of Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*) songs. On 2 March 1985 I observed and re-

corded a Song Sparrow whose songs included notes similar to those in the Songs of Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) (Fig. 1). This sparrow sang about ten songs before flying off. I subsequently returned to the same area several times throughout the spring and summer but did not hear the atypical songs again.

In the laboratory, deprivation of conspecific song models may lead to mimicry. For example, Lanyon (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 161:429-627, 1957) found that such deprivation could lead to mimicry in meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna* and *S. neglecta*). The interspecific mimicry observed in free-living birds may result from similar natural "deprivation," where young birds are acoustically isolated from singing conspecifics during the period when song is normally acquired. This could happen among young hatched late in the singing season, at the edges of the breeding range, or among early dispersers of migrants (Kroodsma, *Acoustic Communication in Birds*, Vol. 2, 1-23, Acad. Press, N.Y., 1982). — GARY RITCHISON, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475

FIGURE 1. Songs of Song Sparrows and a Northern Cardinal. (a) song of Song Sparrow with notes similar to those of Northern Cardinals (first three notes). (b) song of a Northern Cardinal. (c) 'typical' song of a Song Sparrow.



NEWS AND VIEWS

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

As part of a species restoration project in north Alabama, 122 Great White Egrets (*Egretta alba*) have been "hacked" near Guntersville Reservoir. Each egret is marked with a two-inch red flag attached to a Fish and Wildlife leg band. Sightings should be reported to: Burline Pullin, Wildlife Resources Development Program, Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee 37828; Telephone (615) 632-1642. Please note the number and location of egrets and the date of the observation.

REMINDER

Members are reminded to pay their dues if they have not already done so.

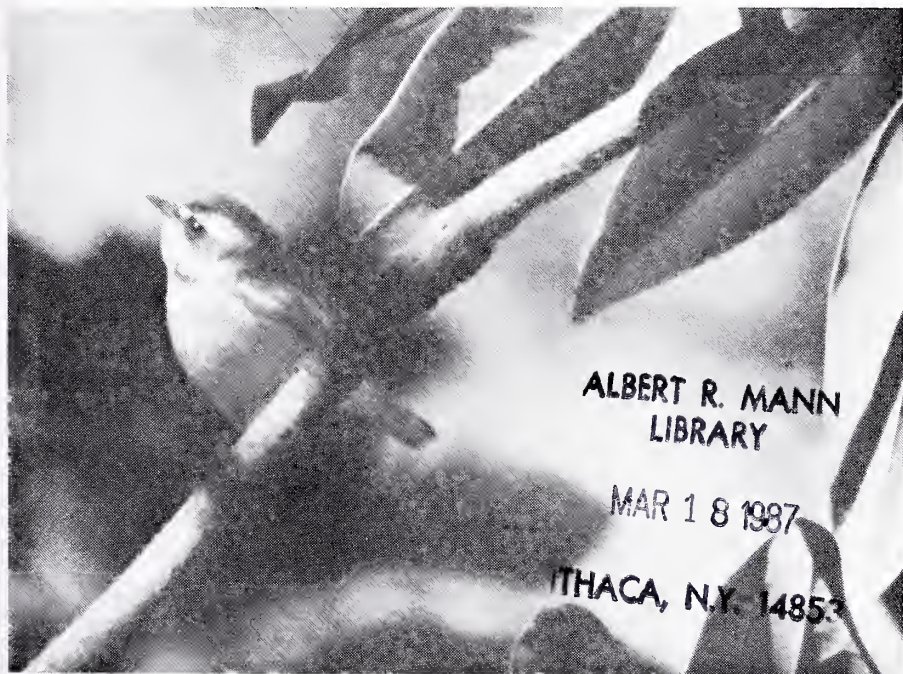
1986 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

Forms for the Mid-winter Bird Count have been mailed, if you desire to participate as a compiler and have not received the forms, please contact the Editor. All birds recorded must be within a 15-mile diameter circle. Extraordinary sightings must be accompanied with a verification form that is provided to each compiler.

The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 63



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Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

| | |
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THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for our cover photograph of the Black-throated Gray Warbler, an unusual visitor to the Lexington area in December. (Plus-X film, Nikon F3, 300 mm lens, 250/8).

THAYER'S GULL IN KENTUCKY

BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.

Little known and difficult to identify, the Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) has received only modest attention since the time it was accepted as a full species by the A.O.U. (1973). The species was first knowingly observed in Kentucky on 15 December 1967 when Able (1968) observed and subsequently collected an immature at Kentucky Dam. Between 1967 and 1981 the species was not conclusively reported from the state, however, beginning in the fall of 1981, numerous sightings have been made, and the Thayer's Gull has now been documented as a rare to uncommon transient and winter resident in at least a part of the state.

Throughout its checkered taxonomic history, the "Thayer's" Gull has been regarded at one time or another as a subspecies of the Iceland Gull, a subspecies of the Herring Gull, a hybrid form between the two, and presently a full species distinct from both. It is apparent that the true taxonomic status of the Thayer's Gull is yet to be resolved, and in the future it is quite possible that the Thayer's Gull will once again be classified as a subspecies of the Iceland Gull.

While the taxonomic and identification problems of the Thayer's Gull are complex, criteria for identifying the species have now been fairly well summarized in two published articles by Gosselin and David (1975) and Lehman (1980). Generally, the Thayer's Gull looks like a Herring Gull with light wing-tips; lighter brown in immature plumages, more extensive white in adults. Unfortunately, few of the characters readily observable in the field that are used to identify the species are definitive. Most involve relative sizes, patterns and tones of color. The best field characters of reddish eye-ring and dark iris can be viewed only at very close range and pertain to adult birds. For these reasons, not all birds can be safely separated from Herring and Iceland gulls, and observers should be cautious when identifying the species. There is no doubt that the experience gained by observing numbers of Thayer's Gulls in the company of birders who know how to identify the species in areas where they occur in greater numbers is an invaluable tool in learning to recognize the species.

The Thayer's Gull nests locally along the mainland coast and islands of the high Canadian Arctic between western Greenland and the Northwest Territories. In fall, most birds move southwest to the northern Pacific coast while a small portion of the population appears to move southeast and south to the northeastern U.S., eastern Canada, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley. In the eastern U.S. the species is most numerous in winter on the eastern Great Lakes where up to twenty or more may be seen in a single day. Elsewhere, the species seems to be a very rare to uncommon, but regular, winter visitor in small numbers, accompanying the large groups of Herring Gulls in their movements to the south. The species has now been observed down the Atlantic coast as far as Maryland, and along the Gulf coast from west central Florida to Texas.

Regionally, Thayer's Gull is known only from Lake Erie in Ohio and records are chiefly from along Lake Michigan in Indiana, except for a few reports in the southern part of the state including the Indiana portion of the Falls of the Ohio. In Illinois Thayer's Gull is more widespread, occurring regularly on both Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River near Alton, as well as along the Illinois River and scattered reservoirs in the central and southern portions of the state. Thayer's Gull has not been

recorded in Tennessee, however, the occasional occurrence of this species on the larger lakes and rivers, especially in west Tennessee, is to be expected.

In Kentucky, Thayer's Gull appears to be regular in occurrence only near the confluence of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers with the Ohio, where large dams provide an abundance of food for the gulls. Kentucky Dam on the lower Tennessee River, Barkley Dam on the lower Cumberland River and Smithland Dam on the lower Ohio River appear to attract at least small numbers of Thayer's Gulls every winter. Being most numerous during extremely cold mid-winter weather, up to approximately a dozen individuals have been observed in a single day around the dams. Throughout the remainder of the state Thayer's Gull has been reported from only the Ohio River at or near Louisville, almost exclusively at the Falls of the Ohio.

The species' occurrence in Kentucky is probably similar to the Herring Gull with which it appears to associate in seasonal movements. The first fall birds may be expected to arrive in early November, with maximum normal numbers probably reached by early to mid-January. Extremely cold weather can bring in an influx of birds that may remain for a few weeks, but with the onset of warmer weather, numbers appear to decline rapidly by the first part of March, and the latest spring sightings have been in early April.

At Louisville, Barkley and Smithland dams, Thayer's Gulls have been observed during each winter since 1981-82. The largest numbers were observed in January and February of 1982 and 1985 when extremely cold weather forced large numbers of Herring Gulls to move further south than usual. During these years, Herring and Thayer's Gulls were reported to be less numerous than normal in their overwintering areas in Indiana and Illinois, indicating that our Thayer's probably came from these areas. In the mid-winter of 1983, 1984 and 1986, fewer were observed in western Kentucky, but were still present even though the state experienced no extended periods of abnormally cold weather.

At Louisville, Thayer's Gull has been observed three times since the initial observation during the winter of 1981-82. A first year immature was observed 8-11 November 1984 and adults on 21 January 1985 and 10-12 April 1986. While it is possible that Thayer's Gull occurs at the Falls of the Ohio every year as a transient and/or winter resident, its occurrence is probably not to be expected in other localities in central and eastern Kentucky except occasionally along other portions of the Ohio River.

Like all gulls, Thayer's progresses through a series of plumages as individuals become adults. Although first-year immatures and adults predominate, birds in both second- and third-winter plumages have been observed. Although the first-year birds seems to be more numerous than adults, it is the first-year plumage that is slightly more noticeable in the field, and the frequency of observation may not represent a greater abundance. The less numerous second-and-third-year birds are not as well known, but have been observed on several occasions at the dams in western Kentucky when large numbers of Herring Gulls were present.

It appears that while a majority of wintering Thayer's Gulls in the eastern U.S. remain on the Great Lakes, small numbers regularly come further south following the larger numbers of Herring Gulls. It seems that the birds move along the larger rivers within the Mississippi Valley, following them to favorable feeding areas, thus explaining the species

distributional pattern in Kentucky and nearby states. Interestingly, while Thayer's Gull now appears to be regular in occurrence in Kentucky, its closely related northern cousin, the Iceland Gull, has proven to be extremely rare. Only one fully documented sighting of this northern species has been made in the 1980's in the state, and observations from the midwestern states indicate that the Thayer's Gull outnumbers the Iceland Gull by more than 5:1 on the western Great Lakes and by 15-20:1 in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys.

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- 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40222.

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1986

ANNE L. STAMM

The weather pattern of the fall season of 1986 was, for the most part, dry, mild and warm; little rainfall until November. In the early part of the season the lack of strong cold fronts and warm weather caused observers to find migration somewhat disappointing, although some warblers filtered through. Beginning in October, however, much excitement was created when numbers of Winter Wrens and White-throated Sparrows appeared in Louisville Parks. Cold fronts in late October and early November brought some duck flights and started the southward movement of Sandhill Cranes.

The hawk migration seems to have been missed, although some good and interesting records of various species were noted. Careful field work produced interesting observations of gulls. Blackbirds arrived by the thousands in the Fern Creek area in November.

Some rarities occurred late in the season and made birding exciting. The bird of the season, of course, was the Black-throated Gray Warbler, found in Lexington Cemetery by Brad Andres. The Ross' Goose found in Ballard County by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. was also noteworthy. Earlier in the season Franklin's Gull established the state's earliest record. Another bird of interest was the Yellow Rail in Henderson County documented by Doxie Noonan and Cathy Justis.

From various parts of the state came reports of birds remaining beyond normal departure dates, especially warblers.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; FCRA = Fishing Creek

Recreational Area, Pulaski County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; KDFWS = Kentucky Department Fish and Wildlife Service; Reelfoot NWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County.

Loons through Cormorants — A fairly early Common Loon arrived at FCRA, Pulaski County, September 27 (JEL). The main flight came through in November, but in small numbers, with a high of 40 birds at Cave Run Lake, November 29 (BA) and 30 at Dale Hollow Lake, November 30 (RS). There was a fair migration of Horned Grebes with the largest concentration of 200 in scattered groups along the Ohio River at Louisville on November 3 (BPB); 75 at Cave Run Lake, November 29 (BA) and smaller groups in other areas during November. Pied-billed Grebes were widely reported but few large groups developed. The largest group totaled 103 at Lake Pewee, Hopkins County, October 20 (JH). A Red-necked Grebe was reported above Lake Barkley Dam, November 29 (BPB, LR, DN, D. Ebel); and a probable immature at Owsley Fork Lake, Jackson County, October 16 (AR, TR). A White Pelican was seen at Taylorsville Lake on August 8 by Charles Roth (*vide* BPB), August 11 (BPB), and August 13 (BBC); another at Corinth Lake in late October (RM); and one over the Ohio River at Fourth Street, Louisville, November 10 (JC). Double-crested Cormorants were found in eight locations in numbers from one to ten (m.ob.).

Hérons — Two Least Bitterns were noted at the SWMA, Henderson County, September 7 (BPB, R. Cassel); no other bitterns reported. Greatest concentrations of Great Blue Herons included 107 at Silo Overlook, October 5, (S, DS, FS); 68 at Jonathan Creek, Calloway County, October 29 (MM), 45 November 30 (CP, MM); 65 at Lake #9, August 31 (BPB) and at Lake Barkley up to 50, November 29 (DN, J. R. Noonan); also reported at five other locations (m.ob.).

Great Egrets were reported from Ballard County to Spencer County at eight locations with the greatest number — 17 — at Lake #9 (CP); late stragglers included five at Lake Pewee, October 2 (JH), two at Smithland Dam, October 5 (BPB) and three at Jonathan Creek on October 26 (MM). The only report of the Snowy Egret was at BWMA, August 31 (BPB). A few Little Blue Herons were seen near the Mississippi River in Ballard and Fulton Counties, August 2 and 5 (CP); three immatures at BWMA and 25 at Swan Lake, Ballard County, August 31 (BPB). Single Cattle Egrets were present at SWMA, August 31 (BPB), Simcoe Lane, Louisville, November 2 (BM, M. Monroe); Mayfair Basins, Louisville, November 8 (JK); 37 in a field with cattle, east of Bardwell and 35-40 along the Mississippi, Carlisle County, September 21 (BPB). Green-backed Herons were scarce, latest report at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County, October 19 (KC). Black-crowned Night Herons left early and were reported in low numbers; 22 at Falls of the Ohio, September 4 (DS) with 30 as the maximum there during August and September (BPB). Interesting records included an adult at Taylorsville Lake, August 11 (BPB) and two immatures at Green River Lake, Taylor County, September 14 (S, DS, FS).

Waterfowl — Two Tundra Swans and three White-fronted Geese were present at BWMA, November 30 (CW, BPB, LR, D. Ebel). A concentration of 9,000 Snow Geese was noted at BWMA by November 30 with 60% in white phase and 40% blue (CW). A Ross' Goose was discovered among the

Snow Geese, November 29 (BPB, LR, D. Ebel). Canada Geese were reported in small numbers at Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown (DS), Lake Pewee (JH), Glasgow (RS), but 15,000 had reached BWMA by November 30 (CW). The waterfowl migration was rather late. Many observers felt the majority of ducks were still in the north due to the mild fall. Only 7,000 ducks had reached BWMA by November 30, according to Charles Wilkins, manager at BWMA. Fair numbers of dabbling ducks, however, were on schedule: 50 Wood Ducks and 50 Green-winged Teal returned to SWMA, September 7 (BPB). Twenty-five Black Ducks were seen along the Ohio River and at Mayfair Basins, November 8 (JP, BBC); about 150 at Cave Hill Cemetery Lake in early November (S, FS). It was surprising that in a flock of almost 800 ducks and coots on Freeman Lake, November 29, no Black Ducks were seen (DS). This species has shown a decided decrease in recent years. Mallards seemed to be in fair numbers. Largest concentrations of Blue-winged Teal included 400 at SWMA, September 7 (BPB, R. Cassel); and 100 at Jonathan Creek, October 5 (KOS). Northern Shovelers were reported from seven locations, but in low numbers. The 24 birds at Lake #9 was the highest number reported (BPB). Gadwalls were late in arriving and first reported at Lake Pewee, November 1 (JH) and 150 had gathered at BWMA by November 30 (BPB, LR, D. Ebel). Twenty American Wigeon were present at SWMA, October 5 (BPB), five at Lake Pewee, October 11 (JH), 16 at Owsley Fork Lake, October 11 (AR), 10 at Louisville, November 3 and about 75 at BWMA, November 30 (BPB *et al.*). Canvasbacks were scarce, but most diving ducks were in fair numbers. Redheads are usually present in low numbers, but 100 plus were noted at Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County, November 11 (JEL); also at five other locations with only one to 18 birds. Ring-necked Ducks reached a maximum of 500 at Lake Pewee, November 17 (JH). Six Greater Scaup were with a flock of Lessers at Markland Dam, November 2 (DN) while eight were seen at Louisville the following day (BPB). Lesser Scaup passed through the Louisville area in fair numbers (200-750) the first week of November (BM, BPB, DN, LR). Three Surf Scoters returned to Louisville, November 3, two on November 14 (BPB) and a White-winged on November 7 (DN). Bufflehead Ducks were reported from six locations with flocks of only 22 and 25 birds. Maximum counts of Hooded Mergansers included 200+ at Lake Barkley, November 29 (DN, J. R. Noonan) and 100 at Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, November 29 (BA); six to 30 in scattered flocks in the Louisville area from November 3 to 6 (JK, BPB); six at Lake Pewee (JH). Three Common Mergansers in heavy molt were observed on a bar in Lake Barkley at Kuttawa on the early date of September 1 (BPB). Red-breasted Mergansers are seldom found on the Cumberland Plateau, but a concentration of 500 was noted at Cave Run Lake, Rowan County, November 29 (BA). Ruddy Ducks were found in small numbers at Freeman Lake (DS), Mayfair Basins, (JP, BBC). Lake Pewee with a high of 77 (JH) and a total of 100 in scattered flocks along the Ohio River at Louisville, November 3 (BPB).

Hawks through Cranes — About 30 Turkey Vultures were observed going to a roost at dusk at Green River Lake State Park, September 13 (S, DS, FS). Ospreys were widespread and present in 11 locations from Fulton and Livingston Counties in the western part of the state to Boone in the north and east to Rockcastle County (m.ob.). All records were of single birds with the exception of three at Falls of the Ohio and FCRA, Pulaski County. The eight Mississippi Kites near Lake #9, Fulton County

on August 5 were probably moving southward (CP, MM, J. T. Erwin). A few Bald Eagles returned in September: one at Holmes Bend, Green River Lake area on the early date of September 14 (S, DS, FS) and one at Lake #9 on September 20 (BPB). Twelve Bald Eagles had reached BWMA by November 30 (CW) and 18 (three of them immatures) were observed at Dale Hollow Lake on the same date (RS *et al.*); four immatures at Lake Barkley on November 29 (DN, J. R. Noonan); also recorded at Cave Run Lake (FB). Joan Noel reported an adult Bald Eagle feeding on a duck at Freeman Lake, November 20. A nest was built by a pair of Bald Eagles at BWMA in spring of 1986, but no eggs were laid (CW); a pair of adults was frequenting the old nest and moving sticks about on November 13 (L. Andrews *vide* BPB, CW). Northern Harriers were scarce, only three reports of single birds. No sizeable flocks of Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawks were reported, although Cooper's (in numbers from one to four) were recorded at nine locations (WB, DS, LMc, JEL, BPB) and at least four birds were immatures. In addition to the above birds, a Cooper's was noted perched on a woodpile, eating its prey, in the writer's yard (FS). There were eight reports of the Rough-legged Hawk, most of them in the light phase (m.ob.). Members of the Beckham Bird Club observed the rare Merlin on the Surrey Hill Farm, October 26, while on a scheduled field trip (two documentations — DN, BPB, BBC). There was a sharp increase in the number of Peregrine Falcons reported and they were observed from August 5 through November 9 at the following locations: Lake #9, Silo Overlook, Rough River area, Falls of the Ohio, Freeman Lake, east Louisville, western Franklin County, and downtown Frankfort (m.ob.). Only one bird at the Falls of the Ohio was reported wearing a band. The Yellow Rail, an extremely rare fall transient, flushed and documented at SWMA, October 12 was noteworthy (DN, C. Justis). Rails were rather unusual at SWMA where three Virginia Rails were noted on October 19 (DN, BPB, C. Justis); and a peak of 60 Soras on September 7 (BPB). The two Common Moorhens at Owsley Fork Lake on October 29 were of special interest (AR, TR). Noteworthy concentrations of American Coots included 2,115 at Lake Pewee, November 22 (JH), 600 at Freeman Lake, November 29 (DS), and about 500 in scattered flocks at Louisville, November 3 (BPB). Large flocks of migrant Sandhill Cranes passed over Kentucky during the month of November with the greatest number on November 9 when hundreds were observed in Jefferson, Franklin, Oldham and Shelby Counties; hundreds also in Fayette County on November 13 and in Barren County, November 14 with smaller numbers in Hart and Ballard Counties (m.ob.).

Shorebirds — Comments on shorebird migration varied depending on suitable habitat, but best concentrations, as usual, were in western Kentucky. Despite the mild fall most shorebirds did not linger late in the season. Killdeers peaked at the Falls of the Ohio on September 10 with 225 birds (BPB). Golden and Black-bellied Plovers were scarce: singles of each species were reported at the Falls of the Ohio (LR, BPB, respectively). A single Piping Plover was seen at Jonathan Creek on October 4 (KOS) and was the only one reported. A single American Avocet appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on August 4 (LR, JK), August 11 (JK), three on September 25 (LR) and one at Jonathan Creek, October 7 (MM). Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs were scarce, but singles of the former species lingered at Mayfair Basins until November 9 (JK) and at Reformatory Lake near Buckner, Oldham County, November 16 (BPB). A single Red Knot in juvenile plumage was seen at the Falls of the Ohio on August 24 (BPB,

DS), September 2 and 3 and on September 10 (BPB). Five Sanderlings were present at Smithland Dam, October 5 (BPB, D. Ebel). Seventy-five Semipalmated Sandpipers and 30 Western Sandpipers were on Mississippi River sandbars, Carlisle County, on August 31 (BPB); fifty of the former species and 12 of the latter were observed at Lake #9, October 4 (BPB). Five Western Sandpipers were observed at Jonathan Creek, October 5 (KOS) and one at FCRA, September 25-27 (JEL). One thousand peeps were present at Lake #9 on October 4 with at least 750 of them Least Sandpipers (BPB) and ± 500 there on October 21 (CP). A few Baird's Sandpipers made their appearance: one to three at the Falls of the Ohio, one in Carlisle County, and two at Lake #9 (BPB); seven at Jonathan Creek (LMc, KOS). A single Pectoral Sandpiper returned to the Falls of the Ohio, August 5 (S, FS), but numbers peaked at 35 on August 13 (LR) and September 10 (BPB). Dunlin were in low numbers: three at SWMA, October 19 (BPB), two at FCRA, October 22-27 (JEL), twenty birds was the high at Jonathan Creek (MM) and a high count of 15 at Falls of the Ohio, October 27 (DN). One to two Stilt Sandpipers were at Jonathan Creek from August 30 to October 19 (MM); one at SWMA, October 19 (BPB) and a high count of 30 birds at Lake #9, October 4 (BPB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were scarce: singles at Falls of the Ohio, September 10 and 16, probably the same bird (BPB). One to five Short-billed Dowitchers were present at Lake #9 from August 31 - September 20; two Long-billed were at Jonathan Creek, October 4 (BPB, KOS) and six at Lake #9, call notes heard for all birds (BPB). Common Snipe were recorded in low numbers at seven locations with the earliest on August 23 at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB); singles also at Lentz's Pond, September 14 (LR), FCRA, September 26 (JEL). Jonathan Creek, October 5 (BPB); six at SWMA, August 30 (BPB, C. Justis), five at Campbellsville Reservoir, October 11 (JEL), but three as late as November 28 at Lake Pewee (JH) and four at Clark Fish Hatchery, November 29 (BA). A single Wilson's Phalarope at Jonathan Creek, August 30, was the only one reported (CP, MM).

Gulls through Terns — Three first-year Laughing Gulls were observed above Kentucky Dam on October 25 (BPB, D. Ebel). In recent years this species has become a rare, but a regular vagrant along the Ohio River and at the dams in western Kentucky. There were seven records of Franklin's Gull, a rare transient in Kentucky. A single bird, fully documented, at Hamlin Island, Calloway County, August 9 was unusually early and established an early state date (MM, J. Erwin); other Franklin's included singles above Barkley Dam, September 30 (BPB), October 3 (MF), Jonathan Creek, October 5 (KOS); Boyd's Landing on North Lake Barkley, October 5 and four there on October 25 and three November 9 (BPB). The only concentration of Bonaparte's Gulls occurred at Jonathan Creek, November 30 with ± 100 birds (CP). About 30-35 were reported at Lake Barkley, November 29 (DN, BPB); three at Waitsboro Recreational Area, November 14 (JEL) and one at Clark Fish Hatchery, November 29 (BA). Eight Ring-billed Gulls were present at Kentucky Lake on August 12 (MM, CP), but numbers built up to 200 by November 8-9 (BPB); 180 had reached Barkley Dam by September 1, but some 2000 to 2500 were at Barkley and Kentucky Lakes on November 29 (BPB, DN); 300 at Smithland Dam, November 9 (BPB) and a high count of 166 at the Falls of the Ohio (DS). Herring Gulls also arrived at the above dams in western Kentucky, but in low numbers, the high count being 50 each at northern

Lake Barkley and northern Kentucky Lake on November 29 (BPB); one at Jonathan Creek (CP); 10 at the Falls of the Ohio, November 22 (DS).

Caspian Terns arrived in small numbers and were present at the following locations: Hamlin Island (MM, CP), Smithland Dam (BPB), Falls of the Ohio (BPB, LR, JK), Taylorsville Lake (K. Prather *vide* BPB), and FCRA (JEL). Only one to four Common Terns were reported: at Smithland Dam, Kentucky Dam (BPB, D. Ebel); Falls of the Ohio (LR); and Green River Lake area (S. FS, DS). Fair numbers of Forster's Terns were present with 50 at Boyd's Landing along northern Lake Barkley and 25 at Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, October 5 (BPB); six at Louisville, September 24 (LR); one at Newburgh, Henderson County, September 7 and one still present at Kuttawa, November 29 (BPB). Twelve Least Terns were observed at Lake #9 on August 5 (CP, MM, J. T. Erwin), three juveniles there August 31 (BPB); seven at Hamlin Islands, August 12 (MM); 10 in Carlisle County, August 31 (BPB); one at Green River Lake, September 14 (DS, FS) and two below McAlpine Dam, September 24 (LR). Black Terns were more numerous than usual: 40 at Hamlin Islands, August 9 (MM, CP); 15 in Carlisle County, August 31 (BPB); 11 at Louisville, September 24 (LR); and four at FCRA, September 27 (JEL).

Owls through Woodpeckers — The sighting of the Barn Owl at Burlington, Boone County, September 12, was of interest since the species is seldom seen (LMc). A Short-eared Owl was flushed from a weedy patch at SWMA, October 9 (BPB, LR, D. Parker, D. Knopf, D. Ebel); and another in southwestern Oldham County, November 16 (BPB). A Saw-whet Owl was picked up on the roadside at High Grove, Nelson County, November 11, by Jeff Andriot and subsequently brought to the Louisville Zoo. The bird apparently had been temporarily stunned by a car and when it was certain there was no injury it was taken to the Palmer-Ball Farm where it was banded by the writer and released on November 16. A fairly good Common Nighthawk migration occurred from August 23 to September 6 in central Kentucky with several flocks of 500+ along I-71 and Westport Road (DN), about 500 over the Falls of the Ohio (JK), some 200 over Science Hill, Pulaski County (JEL), at Louisville over the Outer Loop 150 (DS) and 105 at Berea (AR, TR). Late stragglers included one at Louisville on October 25 (BN) and one heard at Bowling Green, November 7 (BF). Two Chuck-will-widows were calling in Calloway County on the late date of September 9 (MM). Due to the mild fall some Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remained until October 3 at Berea (AR) and at Fort Mitchell, October 4 (EG); others had them at feeders, or flowers, late in October (*vide* BPB). A hummingbird was present at a feeding station in mid-November and reported without details as a Ruby-throated. All November hummingbirds should be carefully identified since there is the likelihood that late hummingbirds may be western strays. In recent years vagrant *Selasphorus* birds have been critically identified and photographed in adjacent states. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker arrived later than usual and was first observed at Louisville, October 6 (DN).

Swallows through Wrens — There were no large flocks of Purple Martins this fall except for the 100+ in east Louisville, August 22 (DN); twelve were still present September 20 at Lake #9 with a flock of 1500-2000 Tree Swallows on September 20 (BPB). At least more than four Northern Rough-winged Swallows were noted at Mayfield Creek and Ky. Hwy. 121 on October 17 (CP). The report of an active colony of at

least 12 nests of the Cliff Swallow on US-127 over Goose Creek in Casey County from KYDFWS came too late for the Nesting Season Report, but was noteworthy since it adds a new County to its breeding range in Kentucky. Twenty-five of the latter species were seen near Science Hill on August 31, where they are seldom recorded in fall (JEL). Six Barn Swallows were rather late at Mayfield Creek, October 17, one also at Jonathan Creek, October 19 (CP); an albino was noted at Science Hill on August 12 (JEL). A few Fish Crows were heard calling in a large flock of 75 crows near Laketon, Carlisle County, August 31 and a few there on September 21 (BPB). The only Red-breasted Nuthatches reported were singles at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, October 6 (JEL) and at Louisville, October 18 (BPB). The two Bewick's Wrens in Hart County, October 15 were the only ones reported (SK). Good numbers of Winter Wrens had arrived at Clark Park, Louisville, October 6 and 13 (BS, DD). Four Sedge Wrens were present at Reelfoot NWR, Fulton County, September 1, where they were observed last season; two at SWMA, October 12; and one at Louisville, October 18 (BPB). The only Marsh Wrens reported were the two to five at SWMA between September 7 and October 19 (BPB and latter observation with BBC).

Thrushes through Warblers — It was encouraging to see 35 Eastern Bluebirds on the morning of September 27 on the Abell Farm, Oldham County (BBC). Two flocks of American Robins totaling 200+ birds were noted flying southwest over east Louisville, August 26 (S). The peak count of Water Pipits on the Surrey Hill Farm was 75 on November 10 (BPB). Cedar Waxwings were scarce; a flock of 25 during the week of October 5 at Valley Station was the only one reported (DS). Loggerhead Shrikes seemed to be increasing in Hart County (SK). Philadelphia Vireos lingered quite late: one at Valley Station, October 2 (DS) and at Berea, October 10 (AR, TR). The warbler migration was rather drawn out, a few species arrived in August, but there were no early dates with the exception of the Nashville Warbler. There was a large bird kill at TV Tower WGRB, Columbia, Adair County, October 10; fifteen species of warblers were found on the ground (JEL). Several Blue and Golden-winged Warblers at Creason Park, Louisville, October 10, established late state dates (DN, S. Theiss, R. Lehman). A Brewster's hybrid was noted with Blue-winged on the Surrey Hill Farm, August 24 (BPB). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Valley Station, October 2 (DS) and one at Louisville, October 26 (BPB) were the only ones reported. A Nashville at Surrey Hill Farm, August 24 was early (BPB) while one lingered at Berea, November 17, providing a late date (AR, TR). A Northern Parula apparently "dazed, but unhurt, was caught near the base of the WGRB-TV tower" and released at Science Hill the following day (JEL). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at Berea, September 16-17 (AR). The Black-throated Gray Warbler, the rarest bird of the season, was documented and photographed at Lexington Cemetery, Fayette County, November 28-29 (BA). Among the records of warblers tarrying later than usual, presumably because of the mild fall, were the following: a Yellow-throated Warbler at Berea, November 10-11 (AR, TR), a Bay-breasted in south-central Louisville, November 15 (RH), a Kentucky Warbler at Glasgow, October 16 and 31 (RS) and a Wilson's in Marshall County, November 30 (JR). A dead Blackpoll Warbler, probably two days old, was found on the University of Louisville campus, October 11, where it apparently hit the library window (BPB).

Sparrows through Grosbeaks — Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were noted

at SWMA, October 12 (BPB, DN, LR, C. Justis). Good numbers of Swamp Sparrows arrived at SWMA where some 200-300 were present on October 12 (DN, BPB, C. Justis). A good migration of White-throated Sparrows was noted at Clark Park, Louisville, October 6 when about 100 were seen (BS). Rusty Blackbirds were late in arriving (DN) and first observed on November 10 at Surrey Hill (BPB). A large blackbird roost was reported in Fern Creek, Jefferson County with a count of 1,105,000 birds on November 12. According to Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., who made the count, the species percentages were: Starling 45%; Common Grackle 35%; Red-winged 10%, and Brown-headed Cowbird 10%. On November 20 the roost had decreased to 1,046,000 birds with 5% fewer Starlings, 5% more grackles and no change in the percentages for the cowbird and red-wing, but a trace of Rusty Blackbirds. Also noted were a pure albino Common Grackle and a pure dilute Starling (BM).

Purple Finches were very scarce, but House Finches continued to increase, particularly, at Science Hill (JEL), Bowling Green (HS) and at Louisville (S). Evening Grosbeaks were practically absent with singles noted only at Big Pond Sanctuary, October 18 (KC) and at Louisville, November 25 (BPB, BM, S).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), W. H. Brown (WB), John Callahan (JC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Don Devitt (DD), Jackie Elmore (JEL), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Michael Flynn (MF), Ed Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Richard Healy (RH), John Krull (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Robert Morris (RM), Barry Nichols (BN), Joan Noel (JN), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Jim Pasikowski (JP), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Arthur Ricketts (AR), Tina Ricketts (TR), John Robinson (JR), B. Shannon (BS), Russell Starr (RS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Wilkins (CW).
— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1986-1987

Reports of 20 counts were received from across the state. A total of 112 species was observed on count days, 102 of which are represented on the table. Those species represented by a single bird observed only on one count are not included on the table. These include: an immature Golden Eagle (Land Between the Lakes), Green-backed Heron (Bernheim Forest), House Wren, Palm Warbler and Vesper Sparrow (Louisville), Snow Bunting (Shelbyville), Gray Catbird (Lexington), Bewick's Wren (Danville), Common Barn Owl (Burlington) and a Ruffed Grouse (Perry County). Twelve species were recorded on all counts and 14 species were noted only on a single count. The additional sightings of a Chipping Sparrow (Louisville) and Northern Pintail (Shelbyville and Danville) during the count period brought the species total to 114. There were seven fewer species this year than last.

The consistently milder weather this winter may have accounted for the reduced numbers of waterfowl and northern finch species. Waterfowl numbers were down from last year, particularly the numbers of Canada Geese (3,587 last year vs. 832 this year). Both the American Black Duck

and Mallard were reduced in numbers. Purple Finches were present in the lowest numbers in over ten years with only 203 sighted. Evening Grosbeaks were also scarce. The mild weather may have also accounted for the number of lingering summer residents, such as the Green-backed Heron, House Wren, Gray Catbird, and Chipping Sparrow. The below average wild food crop resulting from the summer drought was also cited as a reason for reduced numbers on several counts.

Although not dramatic, several trends are interesting to note. Eastern Bluebirds increased in numbers only slightly over last year. The House Finch continued to increase in numbers, though not to the same extent as last year's increase. In conjunction with the increase in House Finches it is interesting to note the similar decrease in House Sparrow numbers; again, not as significant as the decrease in numbers reported last year.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms on unusual sightings. Thanks are also extended to participants that included comments of interest regarding unusual weather conditions, habitat changes and sightings.

CALLOWAY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential and 35% pastures and open fields. Jan. 3; 5:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky clear a.m. to partly cloudy in p.m.; temp. 23°F to 41°F; wind SE, 1-4 m.p.h. 10 observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 48 (21 on foot, 27 by car). Total party-miles 326 (24.5 on foot, 301.5 by car). Total species 83; total individuals 7752.

The Black-crowned Night Herons (B.H.) were a good find, although not so surprising since we do have a heronry about 12 miles east of our area. The large mixed roost of vultures (about one-third Black) has apparently existed in the area for a number of years.

Observers: Happy Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Diane Kurtz, Sally Leedom, Carl Mowery, Mike Miller, Clell Peterson and Lawrence and LuAnn Philpot.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 22%, overgrown and cultivated fields 28% and residential and small business 10%. Dec. 20: 5:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 27°F to 37°F; wind SW, 1-3 m.p.h. Other weather comment: thin ice in bays, stock ponds and puddles frozen. 15 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 58.5 (36 on foot, 22.5 by car). Total party-miles 663 (20.5 on foot, 642.5 by car). Total species 85; total individuals 12,835.

The Starling roost at Kentucky Dam, in continuous existence since 1970, appears to be almost non-existent. The apparent number at this roost this season is between 2000 (CP) and 3000 (BPP), a dramatic decline from the perhaps inflated estimate of 2 million in 1976 (CP). The absence of unusual shorebirds found on the two previous mid-winter counts is probably due to the unusual rise of the lakes in December which covered most of the choice mud- and sandflats. While stopping waterfowl further north, the mild weather may have held some species in this area. American Coots were abundant on both lakes, and ten Common Loons (2 parties) and 54 Great Blue Herons (4 out of 7 parties) were typical of the season. The 29 Bald Eagles were excellent for the count. Bob Smith flew an aerial survey on December 19, covering the entire LBL, and reported a total of

88 Bald Eagles (no Golden Eagles) in both Kentucky and Tennessee, divided into 55 adults and 33 immatures. The Golden Eagle was observed by Ed Ray, an experienced birder: he saw the bird perching and in flight — dark banded tail, white patches under elbows and beige gold wash on head and shoulders.

Observers: Sharon Atherton, Wally Brines, Happy Chambers, David Chiles, Jack and Lorine Dodd, Joe Tom Erwin, Rick Hokans, Mike Miller, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence and LuAnn Philpot, Ed Ray and Stephen Washburn.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat river, open cropland, brush and woods. Dec. 21; 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 28°F to 55°F; wind NE, 0-5 m.p.h. Other weather comment: heavy frost. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 11.5 (8.5 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 25 (5 on foot, 20 by car). Total species 37; total individuals 822.

Observers: C. L. Frazer (compiler) and Jim Frazer.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279 and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat meadows, small woodlands, large woods, ditches, road sides and the Green and Ohio Rivers. Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 30°F to 38°F; wind 5-8 m.p.h. Other weather comments: very dense clouds — few birds were stirring. 12 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 78 (48 on foot, 30 by car). Total party-miles 92 (31 on foot, 61 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 4196.

Observers: Frances Bell, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Neil Hayden, Tommy Hicks, John Humphrey, Eleanor Iles, Ray Iles, Terry Snell, Thomas Stevenson, Ed Wilson (compiler) and Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of U.S. 60 and 405 at Maceo, Ky.) Habitat Ohio River Bottoms, creek bottoms, farm fields, woods and feeders. Dec. 20; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast with occasional sun; temp. 35°F to 42°F; wind 0-10 m.p.h. 12 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 27 (20 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 37 (11 on foot, 26 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 985. Seen in area during count period but not on count day: Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Harrier. Several days before the count and the next day after the count, we found a great abundance of Pine Siskins, but the day of the count only 10. The Winter Wren was in the yard of Marvin and Maudie Ray.

This year we included in our count area the Yellow-creek County Park at Thurston, Kentucky. This inclusion gave us some excellent habitat as the park has a lake, creek bottoms and some massive trees.

Observers: Frances Bell, Johny Bonfordice, Mike Brown, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Neil Hayden, Tom Hicks, John Humphrey, Joyce Porter, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Marvin and Maudie Ray (feeder and yard observation), Rose Ann Radzelovage and Terry Snell.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields and creeks. Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 32°F to 37°F; wind N, 0-5 m.p.h. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 6 (5 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 17 (5 on foot, 12 by car). Total species 25; total individuals 82.

A few days before we took the count a group of about 15 Bluebirds were sighted.

Observers: Rose Ann (compiler) and Walter Radzelovage.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs 6 miles south of Bowling Green. Habitat same as the previous count. Dec. 20; 6:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 30°F to 51°F; wind NNW, 0-3 m.p.h. 10 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 17 (13 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 99 (13 on foot, 86 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 9241. Seen during the count period but not on count day: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird and Purple Finch.

The low species number may have been due to mild weather conditions. Several species normally recorded (Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch and Fox Sparrow) have been observed in recent days but not on the count day. House Finches are rapidly increasing in number.

Observers: Donnie Bryant, Ronnie Bryant, Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason, Bill Mathes, Simeon Pickard, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Allen Stickley, Jr. and Kathy Taylor.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 21; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky foggy to partly cloudy; temp. 19°F to 40°F; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h. 5 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24 (8 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 112 (14 on foot, 98 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 664.

Two parties observed the mature Bald Eagle perched in a snag upriver from Houchen's Ferry. Wild Turkeys were observed both at the north and south ends of the park.

Observers: Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Marquita Gillenwater, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason and Herb E. Shadowen.

GLASGOW (center and habitat as described in 1986.) Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast in a.m. to clear in p.m. Temp. 21°F to 37°F; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h. 8 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 52 (12 on foot, 40 by car). Total party-miles 123 (13 on foot, 110 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 2919.

Waterfowl numbers were disappointingly low, and other (usually common) species such as Turkey and Black Vultures, Brown Creepers, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were either absent or present in very low numbers. The increase in numbers of Carolina Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds and sparrows is encouraging.

Observers: Mrs. Clifton Follis, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Mrs. Billie Moore and Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center same as 1985.) Habitat pond and surrounding forest, farm fields, woodlots and small towns. Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; Temp. 25°F to 35°F; wind light. Other weather comment: occasional drizzle. 3 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 11 (9 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 85 (10 on foot, 75 by car). Total species 40; total individuals 929.

The results of the count were received too late to be included on the table. No unusual species were recorded. Fourteen bluebirds and 30 Purple Finches are worth mentioning.

Observers: Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton and Mitch Sturgeon.

BIRD COUNT

CALLOWAY COUNTY
LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| HOODED Merganser | 1 | 243 | | | | | | 21 | 1 | | 56 |
| COMMON Merganser | 22 | | | | | | | | * | | |
| RED-BR. Merganser | 1 | | | | | | | | * | | |
| RUDDY DUCK | 13 | | | | | | | | * | | 11 |
| BLACK Vulture | 21 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | * | |
| TURKEY Vulture | 73 | | | | | | | 16 | * | * | 1 |
| BALD Eagle | 2 | 29 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 4 |
| NORTHERN Harrier | 6 | | | 3 | * | | | 1 | 1 | * | 1 |
| SHARP-SHINNED Hawk | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| COOPER'S Hawk | 1 | 2 | | 1 | * | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 | * |
| RED-SHOULDERED Hawk | 8 | 8 | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 35 |
| RED-TAILED Hawk | 22 | 26 | 4 | 25 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 8 | 29 | 23 |
| ROUGH-LEGGED Hawk | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| AMERICAN Kestrel | 19 | 10 | 9 | 18 | 12 | 1 | 16 | 28 | 35 | 49 | 65 |
| WILD Turkey | | 9 | | | | | | 19 | | | 22 |
| NORTHERN Bobwhite | 40 | 19 | 14 | 13 | | | 1 | 27 | 15 | 11 | 1 |
| AMERICAN Coot | 600 | 459 | | | | | | 12 | 120 | 6 | |
| KILLDEER | 54 | 79 | | 1 | | 36 | 8 | 18 | 55 | 36 | 1 |
| COMMON SNipe | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| AMERICAN Woodcock | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| BONAPARTE'S Gull | 68 | 46 | | | | | | | | | 68 |
| RING-BILLED Gull | 680 | 4537 | | | | | | | | | 680 |
| HERRING Gull | 22 | 119 | | | | | | 356 | 63 | | 22 |
| ROCK Dove | 21 | 150 | 48 | 49 | 5 | 276 | | 146 | 50 | 21 | 96 |
| MOURNING Dove | 191 | 59 | 60 | 272 | 5 | 157 | 1 | 91 | 22 | 356 | 87 |
| EASTERN SCREECH Owl | 3 | 3 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| GREAT HORNED Owl | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | * | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| BARRED Owl | 4 | 7 | | 3 | 1 | | 6 | 1 | | | 3 |
| BELTED Kingfisher | 0 | 9 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| RED-HEADED Woodpecker | 8 | 12 | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| RED-B. Woodpecker | 85 | 39 | 4 | 33 | 15 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 26 | 41 | 9 |
| YELLOW-B. Sapsucker | 4 | 3 | | * | | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1986-1987

| | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE N. PRK. | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | PERRY COUNTY | WEST LIBERTY |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| DOWNY WOODPECKER | 74 | 37 | 9 | 22 | 25 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 36 | 29 | 111 | 10 | 67 | 19 | 92 | 26 | 47 | 2 | 11 |
| HAIRY WOODPECKER | 14 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 2 |
| NORTHERN FLICKER | 39 | 56 | 1 | 18 | 17 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 30 | 37 | 2 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 23 | 1 | 1 |
| PILEATED WOODPECKER | 7 | 27 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 10 | * | 18 | 8 | 13 | 67 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| EASTERN PHOEBE | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| HORNED LARK | | | | 60 | 1 | 1 | 19 | | 4 | | | 15 | | 4 | | | | | | |
| BLUE JAY | 397 | 244 | 75 | 43 | 26 | 1 | 37 | 19 | 39 | 383 | 357 | 206 | 13 | 113 | 26 | 47 | 46 | 72 | 3 | 15 |
| AMERICAN CROW | 202 | 258 | 100 | 1320 | 20 | 4 | 27 | 35 | 123 | 181 | 284 | 364 | 45 | 300 | 157 | 984 | 72 | 96 | 50 | 33 |
| CAROLINA CHICKADEE | 89 | 113 | 14 | 20 | 75 | 12 | 57 | 34 | 58 | 134 | 164 | 369 | 12 | 201 | 41 | 215 | 82 | 61 | 14 | 37 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 62 | 97 | 3 | 32 | 40 | 2 | 24 | 37 | 54 | 121 | 83 | 203 | 3 | 104 | 23 | 97 | 81 | 37 | 9 | 29 |
| RED-BR. NUTHATCH | 2 | 14 | | 4 | 5 | 1 | * | 3 | 4 | 30 | 110 | 2 | * | 5 | | 4 | * | 2 | | |
| WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH | 21 | 22 | | 3 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 15 | 26 | 22 | 40 | | 11 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 23 | 6 | 16 |
| BROWN CREEPER | 1 | 7 | | 2 | 6 | | 4 | 12 | | 1 | 3 | 32 | | 9 | 4 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 1 | |
| CAROLINA WREN | 17 | 20 | | 14 | 15 | 2 | 15 | 3 | 42 | 27 | 24 | 112 | 1 | 99 | 18 | 64 | 8 | 20 | 6 | 6 |
| WINTER WREN | 4 | 5 | | | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 20 | | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET | 3 | 30 | 4 | | 4 | 2 | 5 | 33 | 8 | 51 | 27 | 23 | 1 | 33 | 11 | 94 | 1 | 12 | 21 | 7 |
| RUBY-CR. KINGLET | 5 | 3 | 5 | | 3 | | | | | 1 | | 9 | | | | 3 | * | | 1 | 1 |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD | 81 | 37 | 12 | 5 | 37 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 33 | 98 | 97 | 18 | 3 | 121 | 26 | 62 | 43 | 69 | | 30 |
| HERMIT THRUSH | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| AMERICAN ROBIN | 134 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 8 | | 19 | 7 | 129 | 4 | 185 | 513 | 3 | 99 | 82 | 26 | 35 | 48 | 7 | 4 |
| N. MOCKINGBIRD | 32 | 5 | 14 | 23 | 20 | 2 | 23 | | 37 | 17 | 27 | 67 | 12 | 46 | 11 | 34 | 37 | 20 | 1 | 1 |

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972). Habitat brushy fields 24%, woodlands 25%, farmland 26%, hedge row 10%, residential 2% and rivers and ponds 13%. December 28; 7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Sky cloudy to clear in afternoon; temp. 32°F to 37°F; wind NW, 0-6 m.p.h.

Only two species of ducks were recorded on the count. Hawks were fairly well represented, with the American Kestrel in higher numbers than on any previous count. Northern Flickers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were down in numbers, while Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens were up in numbers from the past three years. American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and Yellow-rumped Warblers were unusually scarce. Juniper trees were without berries and may have been a factor in the scarcity of wild fruit-eating species. White-throated Sparrows showed a 51-plus percent decrease over last year and Red-breasted Nuthatches hit an all-time high on the count.

Observers: Mary B. Bauer, Smith Hundley, Frank Krull, Barry Nichols, Dovie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Lene Rauth, Anne Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm and Donald Summerfield.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky variable; temp. 25°F to 39°F; NW, 0-10 m.p.h. Most water frozen. 15 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 36.5 (18.5 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 180 (12 on foot, 168 by car). Total species 57; total individuals 4853.

Although weather conditions were excellent for the count, fewer observers combined with an unusually dull season for a near record low for the number of species. The count lacked noteworthy sightings with the exception of the Green-backed Heron observed on Cox's Creek in Nelson County. The bird was flushed from the stream and was well described (Dunns, Johnson and Smith). As noted on other counts, numbers of robins, waxwings and Yellow-rumped Warblers are unusually low this year. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins were observed in good numbers.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, George Crabtree, Rex and Marjorie Dunn, Diane Ebel, Wendy Fidao, Marilyn Homan, Brian Johnson, Marion Jones, Tim Love, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Martha Pike, Tony Smith and Larry Ysunza.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 21; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear to cloudy; 20°F to 40°F; wind variable, 0-5 m.p.h. Ponds mostly frozen. 33 observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours 94 (53 on foot, 41 by car). Total party-miles 546 (43 on foot, 503 by car). Total species 83; total individuals 30,719.

Observers: Mary Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Pat Berla, Don Blackburn, K. W. Clay, Muriel Doolittle, Diane Ebel, D. L. Garst, Wayne Hinkle, Marian Jones, Frank Krull, Jr., Frank Krull, Sr., John Krull, B. L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), K. L. Mudd, Dottie Muntan, Barry Nichols, Dovie Noonan, J. R. Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Donald Parker, Martha Pike, Bob Quaife, Lene Rauth, Virginia Rommel, Carl Schultz, Anne Stamm, F. W. Stamm, Donald Summerfield, Midge Susie, Stephen Washburn, Robert Zaremba (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center

.75 miles south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY Highway 714.) Habitat elevation 640' - 1190', farm land, fallow land, residential, wooded and grassland. Jan. 3; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast until 4:00 p.m. then partial cloudiness; temp. 18°F to 38°F; wind W-NW, 1-8 m.p.h. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (0 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles 160 (0 on foot, 160 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 2707.

Observers: W. Todd Brown and W. Horace Brown (compiler).

FRANKFORT (center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 27, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 32°F to 35°F; wind NE 7-10 m.p.h. No snow, all water open. 21 observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours 71.5 (32.5 on foot, 39 by car). Total party-miles 477 (41 on foot, 436 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 5640.

This is the lowest species count for Frankfort since the 1971-72 count, though numbers of individuals were about average for common species. The wild food crop is below average which may be a partial explanation. Water birds were not to be found and hawks, other than the Red-tailed and Kestrels, were absent. The most noticeable increases for our count are House Finches and both Nuthatches continuing a trend of recent years.

Observers: W. H. Brown, Stuart Butler, Rose Canon, Manton Cornett, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Margaret Frymire, Charles and Mary Grayson, Kristen, Pat and Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Howard Jones (compiler), Jeffrey Jones, Margaret LaFontaine, James Rettig, Ken and Teresa Rollins, Jim Williams and Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1977.) Jan. 3; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 25°F to 36°F; wind SW, 5-7 m.p.h. Water partially frozen, .5 inches of snow on the ground early. 8 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 26 (15.5 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party-miles 162 (15 on foot, 147 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 1628.

Waterbirds were not to be found and several common species were absent. The wild food crop was poor for this area with low counts for American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches. The House Finch, a female, was found by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Diane Ebel, and is the first reported for the Owen County area on our count.

Observers: Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Diane Ebel, Howard Jones (compiler), Margaret LaFontaine, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Audra Thompson and Jim Williams.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman and Bates Creek Road.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 20; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 19°F to 32°F; wind N, 5-6 m.p.h. 32 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 58 (20 on foot, 38 by car). Total party-miles 286 (26 on foot, 260 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 6614.

Seems like the drought and weather have reduced the food supply here and consequently the number of birds is way down. Our crow roost was outside the count area this year.

Observers: Brad Andres, Richard Barbee, Earl Boggs, Ann Bradley, Eugene Brady, Rose Canon, Manton Cornett, Ruth Davis, Ron Duncan, Jean Flynn, Mike Flynn, Johnathan Glixon, Terry Koontz, Betty Maxson, Sarah McClellan, Bob McNeece, Robert Morris (compiler), Rosemary Petty,

Tom Rae, Glenn Raliegh, Jerry Reece, Philippe Rocca, Lewis Shain, Jo Stofer, Marie Sutton, Andy Uterhart, Marion Uterhart, Sally Wasielewski, Tim Williams, Jim Wilson, Bernice Woods and Jim Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat 10.75% residential, 6.25% lakesides, 14% woodland, 56.25% farmland, 10.25% streamsides and 2.5% parks. Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 25°F to 50°F; wind 0 m.p.h. Unseasonably nice and warm. 22 observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 55.7 (16.25 on foot, 39.45 by car). Total party-miles 506 (19.5 on foot, 486.5 by car). Total species 57; total individuals 30,741.

Observers: Chauncey Alcock, Ron Barbato, Molly Caldwell, Neil (compiler) and Virginia Eklund, Mrs. Tom Foster, Tobin Foster, John Gower, Mike Hamm, Edna Heck, Morton Hoaglund, J. W. Kemper, F. W. Loetscher, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, John B. Nichols, Rob Pendencygraft, Les Reid, Joe and Lee Russell, Charles Vahlkamp and Greg Wagner.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, Kentucky.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 40%, farmland 25%, streams, lakes and river 25% and residential 10%. Dec. 27; 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 30°F to 33°F; wind SW, 0-8 m.p.h. Most water was open. 14 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 30.7 (15 on foot, 15.7 by car). Total party-miles 291 (9 on foot, 282 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 2888.

A mild winter leading up to the count date contributed to few unusual sightings. The Common Barn Owl at East Bend was the day's best find. Waterfowl and gulls were particularly scarce, but the 12 Great Blue Herons were a high count.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, Vivian Brun, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Joanne Conradi, Stan Hirtle, Carolyn Johnson, John Johnson, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), George Schoen, Tommy Stephens and Bill Steuver. Feeder watchers were Marjorie Hill, Ed Kennedy, Lynda McNeely, Carmen Schulte and Carolyn VanHuss.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Bonnyman, Kentucky.) Habitat deciduous woodlands, field, reclaimed strip mine land, woodland edge and small ponds. Dec. 23; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy, light rain in p.m.; 40°F to 50°F; wind calm. 1 observer in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (9 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 30. Total species 39; total individuals 255.

Barn Owls were essentially absent from the area as were Great Horned Owls. Very few birds were to be found on recently mined land. More birds return to mined land after several years pass and plant diversity (i.e., weeds with seeds and berry producing plants) improves and, I suppose, some topsoil regenerates.

Observer: Don Spencer (compiler).

WEST LIBERTY: (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 55° N; 83 15'W.) Habitat woods, open fields, river bottoms. Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 33°F to 38°F; wind NE, 10 m.p.h. Snow mixed with rain. 3 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (6 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 16 (4 on foot, 14 by car). Total species 40; total individuals 1036. Water was open.

Observers: Garry Lee Elam (compiler), Mary K. Elam and Francis Peyton. One observer was at home at a feeder.

BOOK REVIEW

THE MIGRATIONS OF HAWKS, by Donald S. Heintzelman. Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis, 1986; pp. xiv & 370; 17 figs., 5 maps; \$35.00.

As the author states in the preface, this book is basically a second edition of his 1975 "Autumn Hawk Flights." Though updated and broadened to include spring flights, the new edition contains about 15 fewer pages and only one photograph (on the dust jacket) *vs.* 88 before.

The price seems high and the title misleading. A reader expecting information on the spectacular raptor migrations over such well known focal points as Fisterbo or the Bosphorus, for example, will be disappointed, because Heintzelman strictly limits himself to the western hemisphere. Except for a few pages on Central America and the West Indies, coverage is virtually restricted to Canada and the U.S. with particular emphasis on our northeastern states where so much research on hawk migration has been carried on, a large amount of it by the author himself.

The text has four main divisions. Part I ("History and Field Study Methods") features migration seasons, and speed and distance of migration. I was interested to read that a radio-tagged Peregrine was tracked from Wisconsin to Mexico continuously for 20 days, and that another Peregrine banded as a nestling in Canada's Northwest Territories was killed only 174 days later in Argentina — about 9000 miles away, having averaged over 51 miles per day!

Part II ("The Hawk Lookouts") is a detailed 170-page roster of selected sites from Alaska to Panama from which migrating hawks have been reported. Here Heintzelman's knowledge of pertinent literature is most evident. For example, the Kentucky section details flights at 16 sites and mentions about 20 persons who have published on them. As a rule, each sighting is followed by the observer's name and date of publication. Duly amplified, these are brought together in the 62-page Literature Cited appendix, a meticulously prepared and impressive compilation.

Many readers will find Part III ("Hawk Migrations and Weather Conditions") especially stimulating. Some of the factors briefly treated are: wind directions and velocity, cloud cover, temperature, barometric pressure, and deflective updrafts. The chapter on thermals I found particularly instructive thanks to two clear diagrams. Heintzelman has assembled many data on the heights at which hawks migrate — from the more usual two to three thousand feet up exceptionally to over 20,000! Hawk watchers in autumn have often noticed a marked decrease of migrants around mid-day. Heintzelman and others believe these "noon lulls" result from thermals carrying the raptors up too high to be visible from the ground.

Part IV ("Migration Routes, Geography, and Hawk Counts") includes information on age classes, broad-front migrations, diversion-lines, and abandonment of flight-lines. As a possible (or probable) example of the last-named, Heintzelman believes it likely that ancestors of the Broad-winged Hawks now resident on certain islands in the West Indies "became trapped there and could not leave easily because of their dependency upon thermal soaring. Eventually they evolved into the various subspecies now found there."

The final chapter underlines the difficulties of assessing widespread

population trends in hawks simply by counting migrants at a relatively few lookouts.

Though Mr. Heintzelman is a prolific author, he has not rushed this book into print. It is well written, well indexed, and almost free of errors throughout. Within his self-imposed geographic limits he has given us a first-rate account of this fascinating subject. Omitted, however, is any mention of whether or not hawks rely extensively on fat reserves for their migrations.

— Frederick W. Loetscher, Jr., 2064 Cardinal Dr., Danville, Kentucky 40422.

FIELD NOTE

SAW-WHET OWL IN GRAYSON COUNTY

On November 9, 1986 at the side of the pavement along Highway 79, one-half mile south of the intersection of Highways 79 and 54 in the community of Short Creek, I found a small dead owl. After comparing the specimen with pictures in the field guide, I concluded that it was a mature Saw-whet Owl. Don Borman of the Owensboro Area Museum staff substantiated the identification. The bird was turned over to the museum for their collection.

In a lifetime of exploring the out-of-doors this is my second encounter with the Saw-whet Owl. Dr. Robert Mengel (Birds of Kentucky, Ornithological Monograph #3, A.O.U.) comments on the infrequency of sightings of the Saw-whet Owl in Kentucky. The Saw-whet Owl has been reported in Jefferson County in 1983 (Ky. Warbler, 61). Also mentioned in this report was the small number of records of the Saw-whets in Kentucky.

— Joyce L. Porter, P.O. Box 55, Falls of the Rough, Kentucky.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society will hold its annual spring meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on April 24-26. Please mark your calendars, make reservations early and keep your fingers crossed for a good spring warbler migration.

The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for our cover photograph of this chilly incubating Killdeer taken in April.

THE MIGRATION PATTERNS OF SELECTED EMBERIZIDS AND FRINGILLIDS IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY

GARY RITCHISON

INTRODUCTION

A variety of methods have been used to study the migration of birds, e.g., radar, radiotelemetry, and ceilometers. However, most studies of bird migration involve field work with no more equipment than a pair of binoculars. Much of what is known about the seasonal timing of bird migration in North America and in Kentucky comes from such studies. Much, however, remains to be learned. For example, although early or late migration dates may be known, the time of peak migration or the length of time that individuals remain in an area may not be known. Such information is more difficult to collect because some method is needed to determine relative numbers or to identify individuals. The objective of the present study was to use mist nets to collect information concerning the timing and extent of migration of several emberizids and fringillids in Madison County, Kentucky. Specifically, the objective was to examine the extent and timing of migration of the Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. leucophrys*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), and House Finch (*C. mexicanus*).

METHODS AND MATERIALS

This study was undertaken from 1 January 1983 through 10 March 1985 at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, located 17 km SSE of Richmond, Madison Co., Kentucky. The area is characterized by low rolling hills and consists of old fields and corn fields interspersed with woodlots of varying sizes and with tree-lined streams. Common plant species in the old fields included meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*), foxtail (*Setaria* spp.), Japanese brome grass (*Bromus japonicus*), daisy fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), and goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*). Wooded areas included eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginianus*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos*), hickory species (*Carya* spp.) oak species (*Quercus* spp.), red-bud (*Cercis canadensis*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). About 10--15 percent of the area consisted of corn fields.

Birds were captured in mist nets (2.1 m x 9.2 m) placed in narrow rows (10-20 m wide) of woody vegetation adjacent to old fields or corn fields. Four feeding stations containing sunflower seeds were maintained in the study area from 1 September 1983 through 31 March 1984 and from 1 September 1984 through 10 March 1985 and nets were sometimes placed near these stations. Three or four nets generally were set up each day and each net was checked at least once per hour. Most mist netting occurred between 0700 and 1200 h. One mist net set up for one hour resulted in one "net hour." The mean number of net hours per day during the study was approximately 12 and, therefore, 12 "net hours" equalled one "net day." Although mist netting continued through the summer (June and July), birds captured during this period were assumed to be residents and,

therefore, were not included in the analysis. All captured birds were fitted with U.S. Fish-and-Wildlife Service aluminum bands.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the study period, mist nets were set up on 352 days, for a total of more than 4200 net hours. More than 2700 individuals representing over 60 species were captured during this period. As noted in the introduction, banding results for eight of these species will be examined. A total of 1240 individuals of these eight species was captured, with Song Sparrows being captured most frequently (276 individuals).

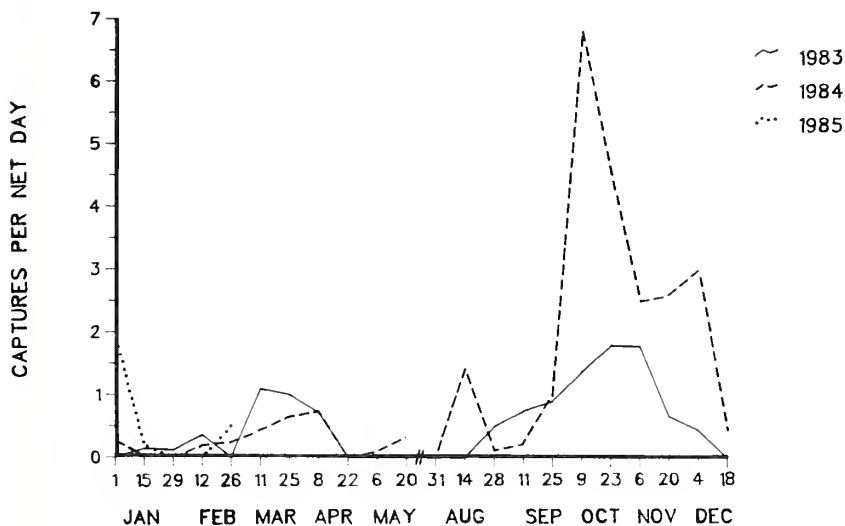
Mengel (1965) considered the Field Sparrow to be a common resident in Kentucky, although less numerous in the winter. Banding data reveals that these sparrows occurred in the study area throughout the year, with fewer captures from mid-January through February (Fig. 1). Fall migration appeared to be rather extended with many individuals captured between early October and mid-December. Small peaks were noted from mid-March through mid-April in both years of the study (Fig. 1). These dates generally coincide with those noted by Monroe (1976), who suggested that Field Sparrows are most abundant in the Louisville region from early March through mid-November. Very few individuals were captured after mid-April (Fig. 1), suggesting the end of the spring migration and the establishment of breeding territories by resident individuals.

Banding results for Song Sparrows were very similar to those for Field Sparrows (Fig. 1). Song Sparrows are also residents in the study area, however, as with Field Sparrows, there was an obvious influx of migrants in early October of both years (Fig. 1). Mengel (1965) also noted that few migrants pass through Kentucky prior to the first or second week of October. Unlike Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows continued to be captured throughout the fall and winter (Fig. 1). Mengel (1965) noted that while Song Sparrows may become a little less numerous in Kentucky during the winter, they are still common.

White-throated Sparrows are winter residents in Kentucky, with greater numbers found in western Kentucky than in other parts of the state (Mengel 1965). These sparrows first appeared in the study area in late September, with the number of migrants peaking in mid- to late-October (Fig. 2). Alsop (1970) reported an early date of 14 October in Hancock County while Wilson (1969) noted an early arrival date of 10 September (1964) in Barren County. Monroe (1976) reported three early sightings in the Louisville region: 2 August (1962), 31 August (1955), and 8 September (1964).

Although most White-throated Sparrows appeared to be transients, many apparently spent the winter in the study area. I captured 202 White-throated Sparrows during the study and 49 of these birds were subsequently recaptured. The mean length of time between the date of first capture and the date of the last recapture was 48 days (range: 2-126 days). Examination of the recapture data reveals a bimodal distribution (Fig. 3a), suggesting that while most birds were transients others probably overwintered in the study area. Further, some birds may have overwintered in or at least migrated through the study area in successive years, as one individual was captured during both winters (5 March 1983 and 28 November 1983). Although White-throated Sparrows were last captured in the study area in early March, previous reports indicate that individuals may remain in Kentucky much longer. Alsop (1970) noted a late date of 2 May (1965) in Hancock County while Monroe (1969) reported a sighting on 2 June.

FIELD SPARROW



SONG SPARROW

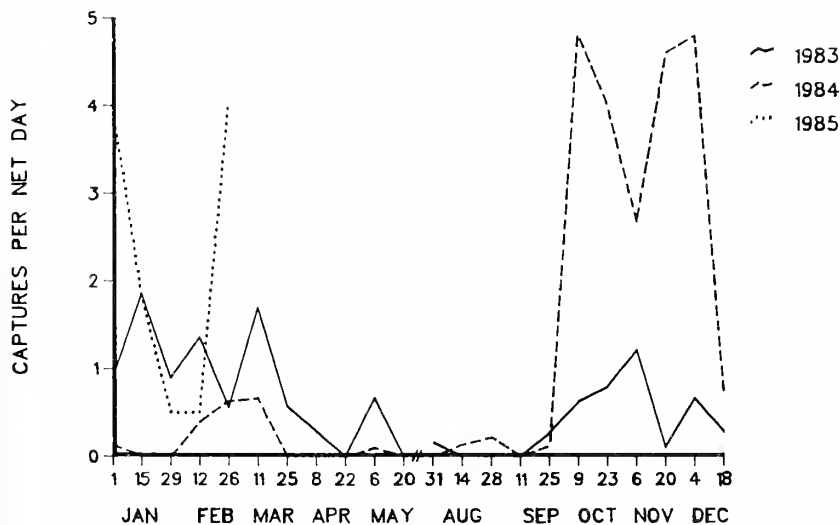
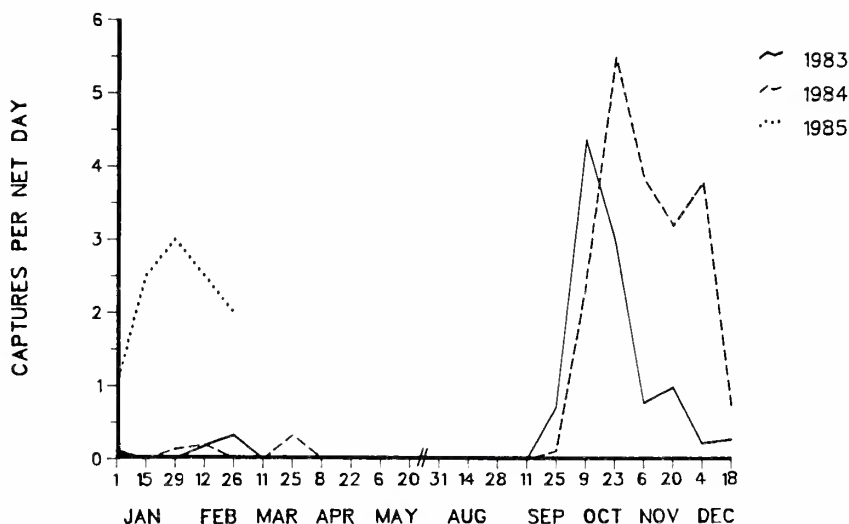


Figure 1 Number of new individuals captured per net day for the Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow (values are averages for 14 day periods beginning on the dates indicated).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW



DARK-EYED JUNCO

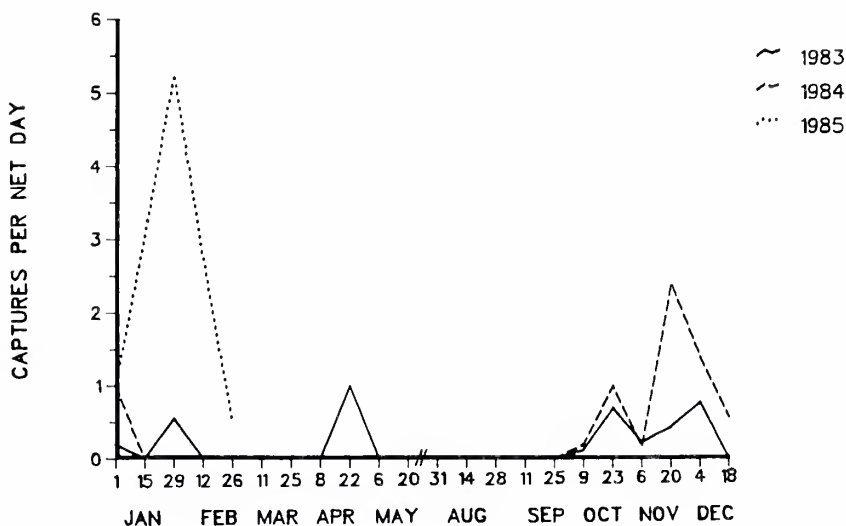


Figure 2. Number of new individuals captured per net day for the White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco (values determined as in Figure 1).

The Dark-eyed Junco is a common to abundant transient and winter resident throughout Kentucky and a common summer resident on Black Mountain in Harlan County (Mengel 1965). Juncos were first captured in the study area in mid-October and last captured in mid-February (1984) or early March (1985) (Fig. 2). Alsop (1970) reported an early arrival date of 17 October (1964) and a late departure date of 8 April (1965) in Hancock County. Monroe (1976) noted early and late dates of 27 September (1955) and 25 May (1963), respectively, in the Louisville area. Stamm (1985a) reported the arrival of single juncos in the Louisville area on 26 September (1984). Mengel (1965) suggested that although a few juncos may arrive in late September, they are not common until early November. In the spring, Mengel observed that a decline in numbers is evident by March.

Seventeen of 119 banded juncos were subsequently recaptured. The mean length of time between the initial capture and the last recapture was 27 days (range: 1-88 days). As with White-throated Sparrows, examination of the recapture data reveals a bimodal distribution (Fig. 3b). However, it appeared that few individuals remained in the study area for long periods of time, only 3 birds were recaptured more than 29 days after the initial capture. One individual was captured in both winters of the study (7 February 1983 and 5 December 1984), indicating that individuals may overwinter in or migrate through the same areas in successive years.

Purple Finches are uncommon to common transients and winter residents in Kentucky (Mengel 1965). These finches were first captured in the study area in mid-November and last captured in the study area in mid-February in 1983 and in mid-March in 1984 (Fig. 4). A total of 127 of these finches was captured during the study and the longest period between an initial capture and subsequent recapture was two days, suggesting that individuals did not remain in the study area for long periods. Mengel (1965) also observed that Purple Finches are somewhat erratic in numbers and movements. Observations in recent years reveal the erratic behavior of these finches in Kentucky. In the fall of 1985, most observations of Purple Finches were made in November (Stamm 1986). In the fall of 1984, Stamm (1985a) reported that some observers had not seen any of these finches by the end of November, however, an influx was noted from mid-January through February of 1985 (Stamm 1985b). In the fall of 1983, Purple Finches were absent in some areas and low in numbers elsewhere (Stamm 1984a). An influx was finally noted in mid-January 1984 (Stamm 1984b), while another was noted from 28 April through 1 May 1984 in central and northern Kentucky (Stamm 1984c). Bent (1968:274) also commented on the erratic migrations of Purple Finches, referring to their migration as "somewhat erratic and irregular, varying in direction and extent."

Only 17 Fox Sparrows were captured in the study area. The earliest date of capture in the fall was 4 November (1983) while the latest capture date in the spring was 7 April (1984). It appeared that few Fox Sparrows overwintered between 8 December and 18 February. Most Fox Sparrows were captured between 4 November and 8 December (5 individuals) and between 18 February and 20 March (9 individuals). Mengel (1965) noted that Fox Sparrows are occasionally observed in mid-to-late October but are more common in November. He further noted that this species is rarely recorded after mid-April.

Although Mengel (1965) classified the White-crowned Sparrow as a fairly common to common winter resident, only 17 individuals were captured in the present study. Three of these were captured in mid-October

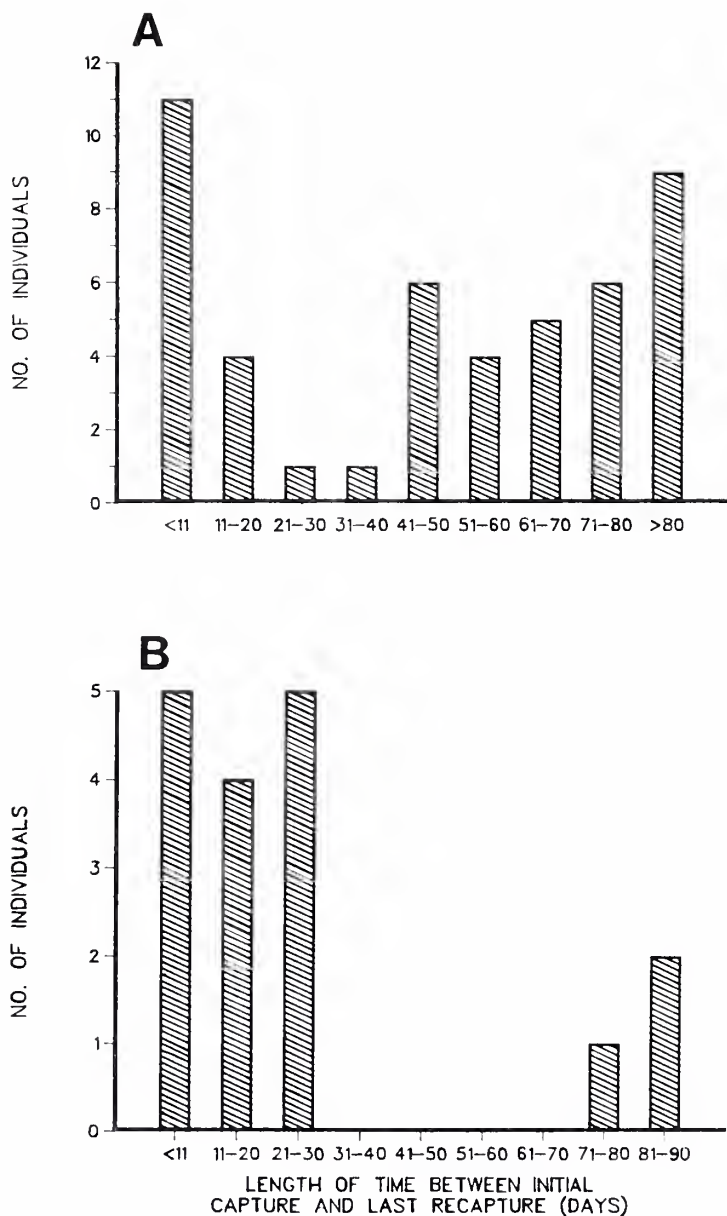
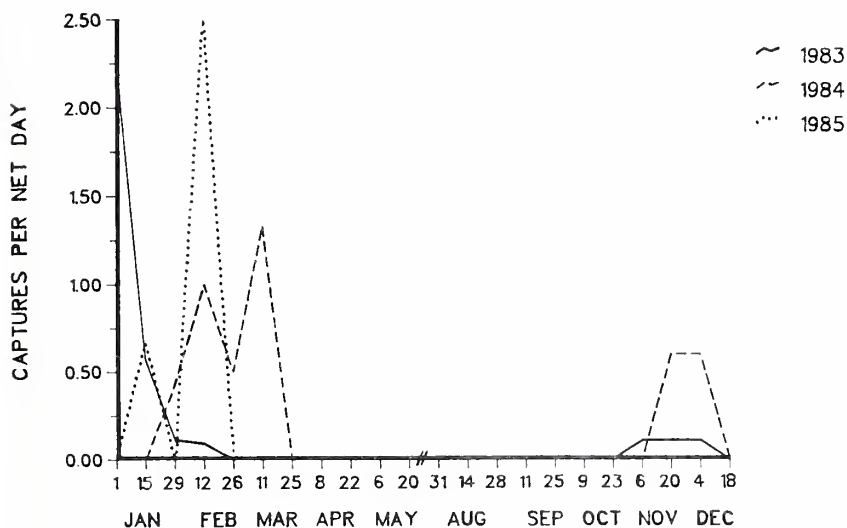


Figure 3. Number of individuals recaptured during various intervals of time after the initial capture date. (A) White-throated Sparrow and (B) Dark-eyed Junco.

PURPLE FINCH



HOUSE FINCH

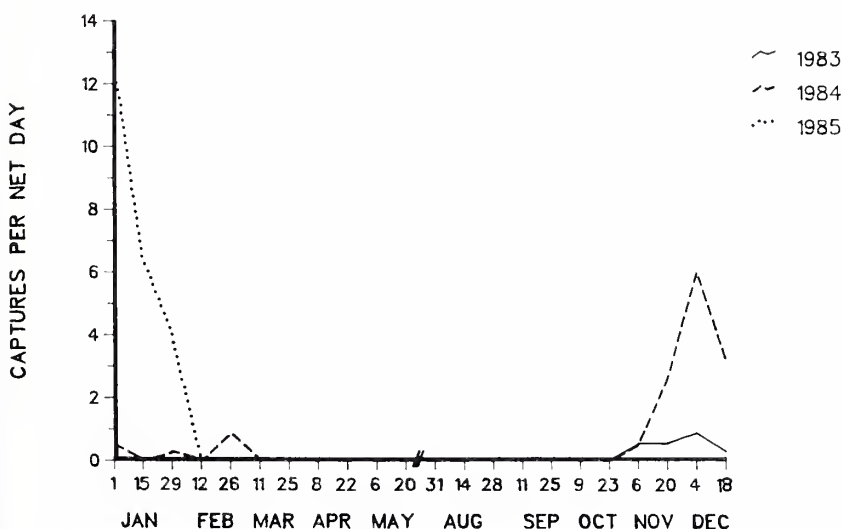


Figure 4. Number of new individuals captured per net day for the Purple Finch and House Finch (values determined as in Figure 1).

(19 October 1983, 17 and 20 October 1984) and the rest were captured between 5 January and 9 March. Mengel (1965) reported that White-crowned Sparrows usually arrive in Kentucky by mid-October and depart by early May.

Seven of the 17 White-crowned Sparrows were subsequently recaptured. Two of these individuals were first captured on the same date in 1983 (18 February) and then recaptured on the same date in 1985 (3 February). This suggests that some White-crowned Sparrows either overwinter in or migrate through the same areas in successive years. The mean length of time between initial capture and subsequent recapture for the other 5 birds was 23 days (range: 13-39 days).

The first sighting of a House Finch in Kentucky was on 16 February 1977 (Stamm 1978). Numbers have continued to increase since then, and House Finches now breed in some areas of the state (Stamm 1984, Jackson and Jackson 1986). House Finches were first captured in the study area in mid-November and last captured in early March (Fig. 4). More House Finches were captured during the second winter of the study (1984-1985), perhaps reflecting the increasing numbers of this species in Kentucky and throughout the eastern United States. A total of 182 House Finches was captured in the study area and only 6 individuals were recaptured in the same area. One individual was captured in successive winters (3 March 1984 and 17 December 1984), suggesting that some House Finches may overwinter in or at least visit the same areas in successive years. The mean length of time between the initial capture and last recapture for the other five birds was 23 days (range: 8-49 days). The low number of recaptures suggests that most of the House Finches were transients. In further support of this conclusion, one individual that was initially captured at the study area on 18 January 1985 was subsequently recaptured 9 days later in a trap at my home, about 13 km north of the study area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Kathy Williams, Keith Krantz, Bill Lynch, Jim Castle, Chris Kellner, and Tammy Ritchison for assistance in the field. This research was supported in part by funds from Eastern Kentucky University.

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THE WINTER SEASON, 1986-87

ANNE L. STAMM

Winter temperatures during December, January and February were relatively mild throughout the state. The coldest weather occurred January 24-27, with some light snow. Covington hit a low of zero January 24 and the temperature in Louisville dipped to nine degrees on January 27. A sleet storm across the state on February 16-17 made it difficult for ground-feeding birds for several days. Some light snow followed the storm, but by the end of the month the temperature was up to 56 degrees in the Louisville area. Precipitation was below normal for the period.

Waterfowl was scarce in some areas, perhaps due to the mild winter. The wild food crop was unusually poor and Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers and Purple Finches were in lower numbers than usual.

A few species remained beyond normal departure dates and were reported on the CBCs (See *Ky. Warbler*, 63:13, 1987). A Long-eared Owl was found in Grant County. Other rare and unusual species included the following: Pomarine Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Thayer's Gull, Brewer's Blackbird and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area in Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; LBL = Land Between the Lakes.

Loons through Storks — Few Common Loons lingered in December: one at Lake Pewee on December 5 (JH); ten at LBL on December 20 (CBC); one in Calloway County on January 3. Pied-billed Grebes were widespread in late December, but in small numbers except for the 75 that lingered at Lake Pewee until January 11 (BPB, C. Justis) and the 30 at an inlet of Kentucky Lake, February 1 (LR). A single Double-crested Cormorant was present at Shippingport Island, December 13 (DN, BBC); and two there on December 21 (S, DS, FS). Great Blue Herons were widespread during December with a count of 46 at Clark Fish Hatchery, December 18 (BA); common at Jonathan Creek (CP); seven at Dix Dam in early February constituted "an unprecedented concentration" in that area (W. Kemper *vide* FL). A Wood Stork, a rare vagrant in Kentucky, was observed in Hopson Bay on Lake Barkley on November 11-16 (LS, RR); two on November 28 (BT) where they were seen on various dates until January 2 (LS).

Waterfowl — Two migrant Tundra Swans continued into early December at BWMA (CW) and two at Honker Bay, February 1 (*fide* ER). Geese were in lower numbers than in recent years. Wintering Snow Geese totaled 9,000 at BWMA in December and February (CW). Three adult Ross' Geese and an immature mingled with the Snow Geese, December 7 at BWMA (BPB, J. Robinson), but six were there during the period (CW). Last year the Canada Geese peaked at 62,000 at BWMA, but this year peak numbers totaled 31,600 to 39,000 (CW). Wintering ducks also seemed to be greatly reduced in numbers. Only 5,000 ducks were present in January at BWMA (CW). Some 150 Mallards had returned to the Mayfair Basins at Louisville on February 21-23 (JK). There were 105 Gadwall at Dozier Lake on January 18 (JH) and 75 at Lake Pewee, December 5 (BPB). Canvasbacks were scarce in late December, but numbers increased in January and February. Highest counts included 55 at lake Pewee, January 3 (JH) and 475+ above Barkley Dam on February 22 (BPB). Redheads were in low numbers, but 125 were at Barkley Dam, February 25 (BPB), while 400 Ring-necked Ducks were at Lake Pewee, January 14 (JH). As usual, a few Greater Scaup were present at Louisville during the period (BPB). Two Oldsquaws were reported: one at Jacobson Park, Lexington and one at Cave Run Lake the week of February 21 (JW). A White-winged Scoter was observed at Dix Dam, February 1 (Wm. Kemper *fide* FL) and three at Smithland Dam, February 22 (BPB). American Goldeneye were reported in low numbers except for the 350 on northern Lake Barkley, February 1 (BPB, D. Ebel). An interesting record was that of the 40 Bufflehead at Clark Fish Hatchery, December 18 (BA). Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were present in very low numbers, but 100 Hooded Mergansers were seen at Lake Pewee on December 5 (BPB), 36 there on January 6 (JH) and 75 on January 11 (BPB).

Hawks — Migrant Turkey Vultures had returned to Lake Cumberland State Park, Russell County by February 7 where 17 were counted (JEL). Two Ospreys were seen during the period at BWMA (CW—no date given). Wintering Bald Eagles were found in good numbers: more were seen during December and January at LBL than in previous years (ER); some 28 sighted at BWMA (CW). Others reported included one up river from West Point, January 1 (LR); one at Otter Creek and one at West Point, January 9 (S, DS, FS); one north of Warsaw, Gallatin County, January 10 (LMc) and one near Harrods Creek, Oldham County (T. Love). The state total number of Bald Eagles on the January survey was 195 (JD). The pair of Bald Eagles continued to be active at the nest at BWMA (previously reported) and incubation appeared to be in progress (CW). Northern Harriers were in lower numbers than last winter as were Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed eating a small bird in the back yard of a Louisville resident, February 20 (BS). Red-shouldered Hawks seemed to be doing better than four years ago. Small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were observed occasionally. A Golden Eagle was spotted at BWMA, January 9 (*fide* CW). American Kestrels were in good numbers, especially in Grayson County (KC). A Peregrine Falcon was reported in Hart County, January 9 (SK — no details).

Wild Turkeys through Shorebirds — Wild Turkeys were observed in Breckinridge County (KC). American Coots remained later than usual: a total of 459 on the LBL December 20 CBC, 332 at Lake Pewee, December 29 and 395 there on January 14 (JH). The 25 American Coots on the

Mayfair Basins February 21-23 were probably early migrants (JK). Sandhill Cranes were still migrating over Louisville in December: a flock of 160 on December 10 (KC); a flock of 100 on December 11 (R. Monroe *vide* BM); a pair on the Fayette/Clark County line, December 18 (BA) and four early migrants appeared at BWMA in late February and were still present on March 4 (CW). The flight song of the American Woodcock was first heard at Madisonville, February 20 (JH), at Louisville, February 22 (BPB), east of Leitchfield, February 23 (DN) and at Eubank, February 27 (JEl), all much later than usual.

Jaeger through Gulls — A jaeger was discovered at Kentucky Dam by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. on February 22 who put it out on a "bird alert". There was some difference of opinion by several critical observers as to which jaeger species was present. Photographs taken on February 25 by Palmer-Ball "are equivocal", but his slides taken on March 4 "clearly and definitively identify the bird as a Pomarine", according to Bruce Peterjohn, regional editor, Middlewestern Prairie Region, *American Birds*. Thus Kentucky will have its first record of a photographically verified Pomarine Jaeger. Slides taken by Doxie Noonan on March 1 are still under review. There was some uncertainty as to whether there was more than one jaeger involved during the period February 22 through March 24. Jaegers are known to be difficult to identify as to species and the writer believes that judicious collecting of specimens is desirable. Quite unusual was the winter record of an adult Laughing Gull at Kentucky Dam, February 1 (BPB, LR, D. Ebel); another, or possibly the same bird on February 22 at Barkley Dam (BPB) and below Kentucky Dam on February 23 (DN), 25 (BPB, LR, KC) and 26 (CP). Fair numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were present in late December (CP); a few above Kentucky Dam, February 22 (BPB). Ring-billed Gulls were more numerous this winter than for the past two years. They peaked at 12,000 at Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, February 1 (BPB); about 100 to 150 at the Falls of the Ohio, most of the winter, but 600 there on February 21 (BPB). The flock of 132 in a pasture along Highway 55, one mile from the entrance to Green River Lake on February 22 was of interest (LR). Herring Gulls were present, but in very small numbers, with the exception of the 500-1,000 at Kentucky Dam, February 1 (BPB). Also, on the same date and place an adult and two first-year Thayer's Gulls were present (BPB, LR, D. Ebel) and on February 23 a first-winter bird was there (DN).

Owls through Creepers — An injured Long-eared Owl was found alongside a road near Williamstown, Grant County on February 6 (KCa). The bird is currently undergoing rehabilitation by Raptor Incorporated in Cincinnati, Ohio. Eastern Phoebe's lingered into December at several locations, and three had returned to Greenbo Lake State Park by February 14 (BA). Horned Larks were down in numbers compared with last year, but 100 were seen in Breckinridge County, February 2 (KC). An American Crow roost of "several thousand" was observed at the mouth of Green River at the junction of Daviess and Henderson Counties (RI); an estimated 5,000 in Henderson County on January 11 were probably associated with this roost (BPB). Wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread in small numbers except for the 30 at Otter Creek and 110 at Bernheim Forest CBCs. Good numbers of Brown Creepers were observed in the Louisville area by Robert Brown.

Wrens through Shrikes — The Carolina Wren population was much improved over last year (m. ob.). A Bewick's Wren was reported in the

Falls of Rough area all during the winter months (U. Byrd *fide* KC). The House Wren at the Mayfair Basins on February 8 was unexpected (BBC). Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread in late December and in good numbers, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets were down from last year. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet fed almost every day at a Danville feeder during February (FL) and one was seen in the Lexington cemetery on January 9 (BPB). The Eastern Bluebird population was slightly less than last year. Hermit Thrushes were scarce and American Robins were in lower numbers this winter, both of which may have been due to the shortage of wild fruits. Mockingbirds seemed to be "down" in the Danville area (FL) and slightly down in numbers all across the state (m. ob.). Scattered Brown Thrashers lingered into the CBC period but were not reported later except for one at Madisonville, January 27-28 (JH). Cedar Waxwings were in small numbers the early part of the season, but an influx of 245-250 appeared at Kentucky Dam on February 22 and remained until March 3 (CP). Loggerhead Shrikes appeared to be up slightly over last winter (m. ob.).

Warblers through Grosbeaks — The Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler population was much below that of normal winters. The Black-throated Gray Warbler reported last season was still present in the Lexington Cemetery on January 14 (DS, S, FS). A Palm Warbler lingered until December 7 in the Danville area (FL). Tree Sparrows were scarce in most locations, but were fairly common in Boone County during December and January (LMc). A Chipping Sparrow was reported at the Lexington Cemetery in early December and again on January 24 (BPB). Numbers of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were down from last year. Lapland Longspurs were scarce with a few singles reported in early December including one at BWMA, December 6 (BPB) and two in Breckinridge County, February 2 (KC). A flock of 10-20,000 Red-winged Blackbirds was noted in the bottoms of Newburgh Dam, Henderson County on January 11 (BPB, C. Justis). Good numbers of Rusty Blackbirds were present in the Danville area, but no Brewer's were seen since the three on the CBC, December 20 (FL). Winter finches were in low numbers in some sections of the state. No Purple Finches were seen in Daviess and McLean Counties (RI), scarce at Madisonville (JH), Louisville (S), and very low at Danville (FL), but 75 to 100 fed in late February at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC). House Finches continued to increase in numbers with highest counts at Science Hill, Pulaski County where 200+ were seen on February 10 (JEl). Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches were in lower numbers than in some recent years. Evening Grosbeaks were present in small numbers (1 to 10) in locations in the following counties: Marshall, Calloway, Trigg (CP), McLean (RI), Hart (SK), Grayson (KC), Jefferson (S), Monroe (RS), and Boyle (FL), but 70-80 frequented feeders in a suburban section of Murray from mid-January to February 27 (WB).

Correction — The record of a Short-eared Owl at SWMA on October 9, 1986 (Ky. War. 63:10, 1987) should be October 19.

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Wally Brines (WB), Robert Brown (RB), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Kathryn Clay (KC), Jim Durell (JD), Jackie Elmore (JEl), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Steve Kistler (SK), John Krull (JK), Frederick W. Loetscher (FL), Tim Love (TL), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Ed Ray (ER), Russell Rogers (RR), Bernice Shannon (BS), Russell Starr (RS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm

(FS), Louise Stokes (LS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Bill Thatch (BT), Jim Williams (JW), Charles Wilkins (CW).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING April 24-26, 1987

The 64th annual spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Cumberland Falls State Park on April 24-26, 1987.

The Friday evening session was called to order by the president, Fred Busroe, who welcomed those present. The meeting was then turned over to vice-president Jim Williams, who outlined the following day's schedule of field trips and programs, and introduced the evening's speakers. Gary Ritchison opened the session with an interesting discussion on vocal behavior of Eastern Screech Owls. Lynda Andrews followed with an update on the status of Bald Eagle nests in western Kentucky. Robert Manns briefly highlighted his discussion of optics to be presented on Saturday afternoon. Blaine Ferrell and Jeff Jones presented slides and highlights of their recent Alaska trip, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. concluded the program with an update on the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas. A social hour followed the evening session.

Saturday morning field trips included a 6:00 A.M. walk around the lodge area, and 8:00 A.M. trip to Forest Service Road #4504 led by Fred Busroe, and an 8:00 A.M. trip along Trail #12, led by Bert Powell. The afternoon program began at 2:00 P.M. at the lodge and was led by Robert Manns, who provided an informative discussion on binoculars and spotting scopes. The Board of Directors met at 4:00 P.M.

The evening program began at 7:30 P.M. in the conference room of Dupont Lodge. Fred Busroe introduced the evening's speakers, Dr. Haven Wiley, who provided an in-depth program on the nature and characteristics of bird song, with emphasis on several warbler species. Following the program, note was made of a book sale for members to take place at the fall meeting, which will be held September 25-27 at Natural Bridge State Park. The 1988 spring meeting was tentatively set for Otter Creek Park on April 29-May 1. A request was made for interested parties who might consider conducting the annual audit of the KOS. Jim Williams led the group in compiling the day's bird list, which totalled 79 species.

A Sunday morning field trip was held at 8:30 A.M. Additional birds observed on Sunday brought the weekend total to 81 species. Total registrations for the spring meeting were 77.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1987

Members and guests who registered totaled 77. Twenty-one cities in Kentucky, plus four other states were represented.

BEREA: Art and Tina Ricketts, Ralph and Patricia Thompson.

- BOWLING GREEN: Blaine and Priscilla Ferrell, Jeff Jones, W. B. and Ruth Mathes, Herbert E. and Jackie Shadowen.
- BURLINGTON: Lee and Lynda McNeely.
- BUCKHORN: Eileen Sandlin.
- CARLISLE: Wendell and Virginia Kingsolver.
- CHAVIES: Paulena Duff.
- FALLS OF THE ROUGH: Judith Williams.
- FRANKFORT: Lynda Andrews, Scott and Pat Hankla, Howard Jones.
- HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin, Donnie Spencer.
- JACKSON: Wanda Armstrong.
- LEITCHFIELD: Montelle and Alita Wilson.
- LEXINGTON: Marie Sutton, Andy and Mary Uterhart, Jim and Gerry Williams.
- LOUISVILLE: Patricia and Jane Bell, Robert K. Brown, Kathryn Clay, Arthur Figg, R. L. and Virginia Hectorne, Sue Henderson, Carol Hyatt, Don Jones, Judy Jones, Harriet A. Korfhage, Tim Love, Jeff and Carol Owens, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., F. W. and Anne Stamm, Donald Summerfield, Chester and Scottie Theiss.
- MACEO: Bert and Mildred Powell.
- MOREHEAD: Fred and Joanna Busroe.
- MURRAY: Clell Peterson.
- OWENSBORO: Lydia Greenwell, John Humphrey, L. E. and Elinor Wilson.
- PRINCETON: Robert and Emelene Roland.
- RICHMOND: Gary Ritchison.
- SCIENCE HILL: Jackie and Diane Elmore.
- STANLEY: Thomas and Anna Lee Stevenson.
- CARRBORO, NORTH CAROLINA: R. Haven and Minna Wiley.
- ATLANTA, GEORGIA: Robert and Didi Manns.
- KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE: Sylvia Britt, Ron and Audrey Hoff.
- PASADENA, CALIFORNIA: Violet Simpson.

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1987

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park include: Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downey Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-

winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak and House Sparrow for a total of 79 species. Rock Dove, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird and Eastern Meadowlark were seen outside the 15-mile diameter circle bringing Saturday's total to 84 species. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird and three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers observed by Bob Brown and party on Sunday brought the weekend total to 86 species.

FIELD NOTES

FIRST DOCUMENTED RECORD OF THE BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER IN KENTUCKY

On the afternoon of 28 November 1986, Andres discovered a Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) in the Lexington Cemetery, located just northwest of downtown Lexington, Fayette County. The bird was first detected when it alighted on a weeping beech at eye level. The yellow spot on the lores immediately confirmed its identity. The bird then flew off with a group of chickadees, titmice and other small passerines and was observed for several minutes foraging in the crown of a large oak. After the warbler disappeared with the flock, Andres alerted Palmer-Ball and other local birders.

Palmer-Ball joined Andres and Sarah McClellan at the cemetery approximately an hour and a half after the initial sighting. After nearly an hour of searching for the bird, it was relocated, still associating with the group of small passerines. The warbler was continually observed for an hour as it moved with the flock through most of the southern half of the cemetery. Although specific identity of the warbler was discernable, overcast skies prevented age and sex recognition.

The Black-throated Gray Warbler remained in the Lexington Cemetery throughout December and was last observed on 14 January 1987. During this time many birders were rewarded with excellent views of this rare visitor. Perhaps cold weather caused the exodus, or unfortunately, the demise of the warbler.

The most distinctive, although not most easily distinguishable, characteristic of the bird was the yellow spot on the lores. The gray crown was bordered by a white supercillium. Gray-black cheeks gave way to a white throat, which initially appeared darker under poor light conditions. Separating the white throat from the white breast and belly was a thin, necklace of gray streaks similar to that of a Cerulean Warbler. The sides and flanks were streaked with gray. The color of the back was medium gray suffused with a light wash of brown visible only at very close range. The wings were blackish with two obvious wingbars. The retrices were dark except for the outer pair or two which appeared entirely white forming a tail pattern like that of a junco. The crissum was white and the

legs were dark. The call-note was indistinguishable from that of a Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). Based on the presence of a white throat and a wash of brown in the back, the bird was judged to be in first year plumage and probably a female.

While the bird was present in the cemetery, its foraging strategy was quite variable. During the first day of observation the warbler confined much of its activity to the upper levels of large deciduous and coniferous trees and was always in close proximity of the flock of small passerines. On subsequent visits, the bird was found with the large mixed-species flock that circulated through the cemetery or was found off by itself.

The bird was also observed foraging on the ground, in low shrubs and in small trees. In one instance, the warbler was studied in a crab-apple for forty minutes as it worked the tree in a slow vireo-like manner. Hovering behavior similar to that of kinglets was also noted.

Once the weather turned colder, the bird was most often found on or near the Henry Clay statue located near the entrance of the cemetery. It was repeatedly observed gleaning insects from the warm, vertical surfaces of the statue's stone pedicel.

This represents the first documented record for the Black-throated Gray Warbler in Kentucky. A previous spring record from Louisville was considered by Mengel (*The Birds of Kentucky* — 1965) to be hypothetical! Most records of stray Black-throated Gray Warblers in the eastern United States occur in late fall or winter.

— Brad Andres, Department of Zoology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210 and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40222.

ALBINISTIC RUSTY BLACKBIRD IN KENTUCKY

A spectacularly albinistic Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) was found while sampling the dead bird population in a blackbird roost kill in Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky. The roost had been treated with PA-14 (a surfactant) on March 12, 1984 by the Kentucky Research Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bird was found in one of the randomly-selected 0.9 m² sample plots used to estimate the size of the kill.

The head of the bird was almost completely white, whereas both the dorsal and ventral sides of the body were extensively dappled (see photograph). The wings were mainly black except for the 8th, 9th, and part of the 10th primaries on one wing and the 7th and 8th primaries on the other. These feathers were either partially or completely white. One of the rectrices also had considerable white in it. The specimen was identified as a male weighing 64.5 g with one wing chord measuring 117 mm and the other 114 mm (North American Bird Bander 1:25-27, 1976). This bird was one of 11 Rusty Blackbirds found among the 1685 blackbirds (*Icterinae*) and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) counted on 33 plots. The specimen is now housed at the Western Kentucky University Biology Department in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

This is apparently the first albinistic Rusty Blackbird recorded in Kentucky. Allaire (Ky. Warbler 53:13-16, 1977) did not mention the species in his summary of Kentucky ornithological albinism cases, although

this aberration is not unknown in Rusty Blackbirds. (Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club 4:27-30, 1879) records a "mottled" rusty from Detroit, Michigan, and Ross (Cassinia 47:2-21, 1963) mentions one museum specimen (U.S. National Museum) and two sight records of partially albino Rusty Blackbirds.

Although Gross (Bird-Banding 36:67-71, 1965) in his excellent summary of the incidence of albinism in North American birds did not mention Rusty Blackbirds *per se*, he numbered the family Icteridae (now subfamily Icterinae) among the 54% of the 93 North American bird families in which albinism had been recorded at that time. Of the 1847 individual albinism cases he compiled, Icterinae members comprised approximately 10% (188 individuals).

Several examples exist in the literature of relatively large percentages of individuals from isolated populations exhibiting varying degrees of albinism, presumably because the recessive gene for albinism was given a greater than usual opportunity for phenotypic display among inbred birds. Edson (The Auk 45: 377-378, 1928) recorded one such incident for Icterinae in Washington State where at least 40% of an estimated flock of 500 Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) exhibited substantial amounts of white. No such phenomenon was apparent among Rusty Blackbirds we examined in southcentral Kentucky in 1984. An additional 188 Rusty Blackbirds were found in sample plots following two other Russellville, Kentucky roost sprays in January and March 1984, but only the one bird mentioned here exhibited albinism.

— Allen R. Stickley, Jr., USDA/APHIS/Animal Damage Control Research, Kentucky Field Station, 334 15th Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.



Albinistic Rusty Blackbird collected from a blackbird roost in Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky.

NEWS AND VIEWS

NORTHERN KENTUCKY BIRD CLUB ORGANIZES

The Northern Kentucky Bird Club, a local chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, has been organized. Membership is concentrated, but not limited to, the northern tier counties of Boone, Kenton, Campbell and Grant. Activities currently include monthly field trips, spring and winter bird counts and the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas. A newsletter is published quarterly and dues are \$1.00 for individuals and \$2.00 for families. Monthly meetings are scheduled to begin in the fall of 1987. Anyone interested in joining or desiring more information may contact Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005.

PURPLE MARTIN COLONY REGISTRY

The Colony Registry Program of the newly formed Purple Martin Conservation Association seeks the help of all persons in locating and registering Purple Martin colonies throughout all of North America in preparation for several projects designed to help this man-dependent species experiencing long-term declines within parts of its breeding range. If you know of someone who has a martin colony or is trying to attract one, or if you are interested in starting a colony yourself, please write to the P.M.C.A. You can further assist by looking for martin houses or gourds in peoples yards during your travels. If you locate some, please try to obtain the mailing addresses. The Purple Martin Conservation Association, P.O. Box 178, Edinboro, Pennsylvania 16412.

HELP NEEDED IN WARBLER SURVEY

The purpose of this survey is to add to our knowledge of the location of occurrences of warblers in Kentucky and adjacent states and to assess annual changes in population numbers. My interest in this survey grows from the concern for habitat destruction in the wintering grounds of our warblers. Your participation in this survey should not require a lot of paper work or time. Simply, keep a tally of the number of warblers on a checklist that will be provided. If you are interested in participating, please write Aaron T. Trent, Route 6, Woodland Hills, Abington, Virginia 24210 for a checklist of warblers and an information sheet on breeding dates and habitat. Participants will receive a typed report of the year's results.

ALBERT R. MANN
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THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for our cover photograph of the Black-crowned Night Heron taken at the Falls of the Ohio in May.
(Plus-X film, Nikon F3, 300 mm lens, 125/5-6).

THE SPRING MIGRATION OF 1987

ANNE L. STAMM

The spring migration of 1987 was termed by some observers as "poor" and "slow." Traditional migration waves were not reported, but a noticeable passerine movement occurred on May 2 and 6. Species expected to arrive in late March and early April were generally later than usual, although a single Eastern Kingbird was unusually early, arriving on March 23. Some winter birds such as Pine Siskins were still present in May in Shelby and Grayson counties.

The weather this spring was rather strange. March was exceedingly warm and temperatures averaged more than four degrees a day above normal for the first 29 days, according to the National Weather Service. This warm and sunny weather was broken by a freak 8-inch snowstorm in Louisville on March 30. Eastern Kentucky, particularly Perry, Pike and Letcher counties, was hard-hit with a heavy snowstorm during April 3-5. The new snow left accumulations ranging from 10 inches in West Liberty and 12 inches in Middlesboro to 24 inches in Hazard and Pikeville to 36 inches in Letcher County. A few days later the temperature ranged in the forties and April, for the most part, was fairly mild, but May was hot and more like August. Rainfall for the period was much below normal.

Some population changes were noted in various sections of the state. Many observers felt that House Wrens were more numerous than usual. Eastern Kingbirds were also present in good numbers in Hart and Shelby counties. Wood Thrushes seemed less common than usual and warblers were in low numbers.

No hawk migration flights were reported and few Broad-winged Hawks were observed. The rarity of the season, however, was the sighting of a Ruff.

Abbreviations — MSB=Mayfair Settling Basins, Louisville; MCFH=Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Reelfoot NWR=Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; SWMA=Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; BBC=Beckham Bird Club; CKWMA=Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area; BWMA=Ballard Waterfowl Management Area.

Loons through Bitterns — A single Common Loon returned to Kentucky Dam on March 21 (BPB) and two at Lake Pewee on March 25 (JH); one to three appeared in early April at Doe Run Lake, Kenton County (EG), Cave Run Lake, Rowan County and three were still present at Lake Pewee on May 15 (JH). Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were scarcely mentioned: one to four of the former were found at three locations and singles of the latter species at two locations, but 30 were present above Kentucky Dam on March 21 (BPB). Double-crested Cormorants were reported from eight locations, all in western Kentucky with the exception of one near Danville and one at the Falls of the Ohio. A flock of 40 birds was seen flying north in Calloway County in early April (MM) and 70 noted on Bayou de Chien, above Hickman, Fulton County, April 5 (BPB, LR).

Single American Bitterns were reported in northeast McCreary County on April 29 (BPB, J. Campbell) and at Mayfair settling Basin, Jefferson County on May 10 (BPB).

*Heron*s — A total of six Great Blue Herons was observed in Grayson County on May 10 (KC, H. Lush, AW); seven in Fulton County, May 15, seven in Carlisle County and six in Ballard County, May 16 (S, DS, FS); no others reported. Two Great Egrets returned to Lake #9 by April 5 (BPB), one at MCFH on April 17 (FB) and one at Science Hill, Pulaski County, April 22 (JEL). May records included singles at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB), MCFH (FB); five in Fulton County and three in Ballard County (S, DS, FS). The only Snowy Egret reported was an adult seen on Swan Lake, May 16 (S, FS, DS). Several Little Blue Herons were noted at Reelfoot NWR, April 17 (BPB) and two adults at Swan Lake, May 16 (S, FS, DS). Eight Cattle Egrets were present near Open Pond, Fulton County, April 17 (BPB) and one there May 15 (S, DS, FS); and one at MCFH on May 6 (FB). Green-backed Herons were reported in fairly low numbers. One hundred and forty-five Black-crowned Night Herons visited the rock ledge below McAlpine Dam, May 19 (LR); two noted in a flooded field in East Bend, Boone County, April 19 (LMc). Five Yellow-crowned Night Herons were present at the Falls of the Ohio and one at Lentz's Pond on May 31 (BPB).

Waterfowl — A Mute Swan was seen on a farm pond in Boyle County March 23 (*vide* FL). There was a fair migration this spring for diving ducks and moderate flocks of dabbling ducks.

One hundred Black Ducks were present at SWMA on March 27 (BPB). Large numbers of Blue-winged Teal were noted in a flooded field along the Ohio River in Boone County in mid-April (LMc); fifty at SWMA on April 12 (BPB); and 17 still present in Calloway County, May 2 (J. T. Erwin *vide* CP). Quite unexpected was an apparent hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal at Hays Kennedy Park, Jefferson County, April 6 (JC). The bird remained until April 8 and was seen by many observers. Northern Shovelers peaked at 80 birds at SWMA on March 15 (BPB). Eighty-two Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Lake Pewee on March 20 (JH). Two Greater Scaup were seen at Smithland Dam, March 21 (BPB) and nine at Towhead Island, March 27 (LR). Two rafts of Lesser Scaup Ducks totaling 450 or more were above Kentucky Dam on March 5 (S, DS, FS) and a similar number on March 15 (S, BM, M. Monroe, FS); on the afternoon of the latter date 500 there (BPB); about 100+ on Lake Barkley above the dam on April 5 (BPB), and 52 still present near Shippingport Island, April 12 (LR). An Old Squaw was reported above Kentucky Dam on March 15 and a flock of 14 there on March 21 (BPB, LR). Red-breasted Mergansers were numerous at Lake Barkley above the dam where 700+ were present on March 21 (BPB); other sightings away from Lake Barkley included 24 at Louisville on April 3 (LR), five at Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County on April 4 (JEL); one at Frankfort Game Farm Lake on March 21 (WB) and six at Kentucky Dam, May 13 (BPB).

Hawks — There were no hawk flights reported. Turkey Vultures peaked at 77 on March 27 at MCFH (FB) and 30 still remained there on May 29.

Eight sightings of Ospreys were reported this spring between March 21 and May 17 at the following locations: Lake Barkley (BPB), Jonathan Creek (MM), below McAlpine Dam (LR), farm pond south of Lexington (LMc), pond north of Somerset (JEl), Owsley Fork Reservoir (GR, AR), and one in flight over HWY 70 one mile north of Pulaski County in Rockcastle County (JEl). Single Mississippi Kites were observed near Lake #9 and at Columbus State Park on May 15 and 16, respectively (DS, S, FS). A pair of Bald Eagles nested at BWMA, two young were seen, but later the young died (L. Andrews). Ten Cooper's Hawks were reported: three in Pulaski County, April 27 (JEl); an immature and two adults in Spencer County, May 7 and 8 (WB); three in Grayson County, May 10 (KC, AW); and one in Fulton County, May 15 (DS, S). Single Red-shouldered Hawks were observed in River Fields Sanctuary (LR), Madisonville (JH), Jefferson County Forest (DS) and in Fulton County (DS, S, FS). Although no Broad-winged Hawk flights were observed there were a few reports: a pair on April 18 at Boone County Cliffs Preserve, one on May 17 and another at Big Bone State Park, May 9 (LMc); three in Grayson County, May 10 (KC, Una Byrd); and one over Columbus State Park, May 16 (DS, FS, S). Red-tailed Hawks were in normal numbers: a total of 23 reported on the Grayson County count on May 10 (KC *et al.*) while 14 were on the Calloway County count on May 2 (J. T. Erwin *vide* CP). A beautiful Krider's Hawk was well seen at Princeton, Caldwell County on March 15 (S, BM, Mark Monroe).

Wild Turkey through Coots — Three Wild Turkeys were observed on the Neill Farm at the Falls of the Rough on May 10 (KC). Observers working in Grayson County on May 10 found 64 Northern Bobwhites (KC *et al.*) while a total of 44 was reported on the Calloway County count on May 2 (J. T. Erwin *vide* CP). The only Virginia Rail reported was one at Indian Fort Theater, east of Berea on April 22 (GR). Small numbers of Sora Rails were reported: six at SWMA on April 19 and May 12 (BPB); singles at Leitchfield May 10 (AW) and in a marsh at Somerset Reservoir on April 16 and April 25 (JEl). American Coots peaked with 282 at Lake Pewee on March 25 (JH); two birds were still present at the marina at Kentucky Lake May 13 and 17 (S, DS, FS). A flock of 30 Sandhill Cranes was observed over Louisville on March 15 (BPB).

Shorebirds — The only Black-bellied Plover reported was seen in the Ohio River Bottoms near Maceo, April 16 (M. Brown *vide* AP). Lesser Golden Plovers were reported at only four locations with the earliest near Danville on March 28 — three birds (FL); two at Murray on March 31, nine at Jonathan Creek, April 3 (MM) and three at Open Pond, Fulton County on April 5 (BPB, LR). A total of 75 Semipalmated Plovers was observed in scattered flocks in western Henderson County on May 12 (BPB), small numbers in Jefferson and Fulton counties and 18 still present at MCFH on May 29 (FB). A Greater Yellowlegs made its appearance on March 5 in Henderson County (RI), numbers were relatively small this spring with the exception of about 100 in the northern part of Reelfoot NWR on April 18 (CP) and a total of 70 birds in scattered flocks in Fulton County, April 5 (BPB). A Lesser Yellowleg was first observed near Danville on March 28 (FL) but 300 were in the vicinity of Bondurant and Lake #9 on April 18 (CP) and 150 in scattered flocks were present in

Fulton County on April 5 and in Reelfoot NWR on April 17 (BPB). There were a few unusual shorebird records: Upland Plovers (3) in the Ohio River Bottoms, near Maceo, Daviess County, April 17 (AP); one in Calloway County in "early April" and May 2 (MM) and on Schuler Lane, Louisville the first week of May (BPB); a Ruddy Turnstone in Fulton County, April 18 (CP); a single Western Sandpiper at Open Pond, April 5 (BPB) and Reelfoot NWR, April 18 (CP); and two on May 4, 6 and 14, but a high of 10 on May 7 at MCFH (FB); White-rumped Sandpipers (2-6) on Lake #9 (BPB) and MCFH (FB); a Baird's Sandpiper in eastern Union County (BPB, LR, D. Ebel) and five at MCFH on May 7 and one on May 14 (FB). The rarity of the season, however, was the Ruff on April 17 in the northern section of Reelfoot NWR (BPB). This is Kentucky's second record of this rare spring transient. Normal numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers passed through Kentucky. Least Sandpipers were present from April 5 to May 31 with the latter date at Petersburg, Boone County (LMc) and the maximum number about 100 at Lake #9 (BPB). Thirty Pectoral Sandpipers were seen near Danville on March 28, but migration was in full swing on April 5, when about 500 were seen in scattered flocks in western Fulton County; also observed in Henderson and Rowan counties. A single Stilt Sandpiper in western Henderson County and a flock of 13 Short-billed Dowitchers near Open Pond occurred on May 12 and 13, respectively (BPB). Common Snipe were widespread and present in fairly good numbers (m.ob.).

Jaeger through Terns—The Pomarine Jaeger, formerly reported, was last observed on March 15 and 21 by many Kentucky observers and on March 24 by a Tennessee birder. Eight Bonaparte's Gulls were first observed below the Kentucky Dam on March 15 (S, BM, M. Monroe). They were fairly widespread in numbers from one to three in Calloway, Hopkins, Daviess and Boone counties. Largest movements occurred on March 21 with 150 birds along the Ohio River at Louisville, 100 at Lake Barkley, March 29 (BPB), 75 on the wall below McAlpine Dam on April 3 (LR), and 30 at MCFH on the same date (FB). An adult Franklin's Gull was present on Lake Barkley above the dam, April 5 (LR, BPB). A maximum of 1,000+ Ring-billed Gulls was counted at Kentucky Dam, March 5 (S, FS, DS), about 750 there on March 15 (BPB) and two still present on May 13 (S, *et al.*); also 1000 on Lake Barkley around Boyd's Landing on March 21 (BPB); fairly common throughout the period along the Ohio River in Boone County, with two still present at Petersburg on May 9 (LMc). Herring Gulls were reported in small numbers in mid-March at Kentucky Dam, Lake Barkley and the Falls of the Ohio; two were still present at the latter location on May 19 (BPB). A single Caspian Tern was noted at East Bend, Boone County on April 11, five on April 19 (LMc); two at Kentucky Dam on April 16, 18 and 11 at Smithland Dam on May 12 (BPB). The only Common Terns reported were the three at MCFH on May 4 (FB). Two Forster's Terns were noted in Calloway County on May 2 (J. T. Erwin *vide* CP), six at Smithland Dam on May 12 (BPB) and five near Rough River Dam on May 10 (KC). Least Terns were reported at Lake #9 on May 13 (no number given—BPB, J. T. Erwin) and five at Hickman, Fulton County on May 14 (S, DS, FS). Two Black Terns were observed on MCFH May 4 (FB) and one at Barkley Dam on May 13 (BPB) were the only ones reported.

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — A Black-billed Cuckoo at Glasgow on May 16 was the only one reported (RS). Yellow-billed Cuckoos arrived rather late and were recorded at the following locations: Madison County (AR) and the Falls of the Rough on May 10 (KC), Madisonville on May 11 (JH), Glasgow (RS) and at the campgrounds at Kentucky Lake, May 13 (FS, S, DS). Common Barn Owls were reported from four locations: one at Madisonville on March 6 (JH), one at Burlington on May 3-5, 29-31 (LMc), a pair at Stanley during the period (T. Stevenson) and one at MCFH on April 3 (FB). Common Nighthawks arrived later than normal: first sighting at Morehead, Rowan County on April 28 (FB), another at Science Hill, Pulaski County on April 30 (JEL), other arrival dates were in May (m.ob.). Five Chuck-wills-widows were recorded at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County on May 10 (KC) and one at Madisonville on June 3 (JH). Whip-poor-wills were reported as "down in numbers" in McLean County (RI). Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were still present in Grayson County on May 10 (KC *et al.*).

Flycatchers through Crows — Three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were heard singing on Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville on May 19 (BPB). Four Willow Flycatchers were observed at MCFH on May 14 (FB). A Least Flycatcher was recorded at MCFH on April 28 (FB) but one was still present at CKWMA on May 25 (GR). Eastern Kingbirds were recorded in good numbers in Hart (SK), Shelby and Henry counties (S, FS); one bird was unusually early in the Louisville area on March 23 (H. Schutte) and established an early state date. Purple Martins arrived much later than in previous years. Colonies in Jefferson and Ballard counties were decidedly down in numbers (S, DS, FS). The only concentration of Tree Swallows occurred at MCFH on April 3 when 200 were seen (FB). Rough-winged Swallows arrived at the Somerset Reservoir on March 27 (JEL). Numbers were thought to be down in Grayson County (KC). Approximately 80 Bank Swallows were observed in Carroll County on May 24 (S, FS); ten birds at MCFH on May 4 (FB). A single Cliff Swallow arrived at Eggner's Ferry, Trigg County on March 23 and established an early state date (CP). Forty-five Cliff Swallows were noted at MCFH on May 4 (FB), about 80 at Barkley Dam on May 13, 30 at Jonathan Creek, May 14 (S, DS, FS); and 111 was the total for an all day count in Grayson County on May 10 (m. ob.). Several Fish Crows were heard at Reelfoot NWR and about 15 at Chalk Bluff on April 17 (BPB).

Wrens through Shrikes — Reports on the Carolina Wren indicated birds were "plentiful" (FL), "up in numbers" (RI), "quite common this spring" (JH) and heard more frequently in Louisville. It was encouraging to have a few reports of the Bewick's Wren: one near Kentucky Dam on March 21 (LR, BPB); a pair in Murray for only a few days (no date given — R. Butler *vide* CP); three in the Falls of the Rough area on May 10 (Una Byrd, KC). House Wrens appeared to be more common than in recent years. A Winter Wren was still present in Calloway County on May 2 (J. T. Erwin *et al. vide* CP). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered at Burlington until May 16 (LMc). Good numbers of Eastern Bluebirds continued to be reported from most areas. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was still present at Burlington on May 30-31 (LMc). Reports of the Wood Thrush were a bit

discouraging. They were "doing poorly" in the Danville area (FL), "seldom heard or seen this season" in the Madisonville area (JH) and numbers appeared to be down in the Louisville area (S). There appeared to be a decrease in the number of Brown Thrashers sighted during the period. The Cedar Waxwing migration seemed to be more in evidence in mid-May and later with small flocks at Madisonville (JH), Erlanger, Kenton County (EG), Columbus State Park (S, FS, DS), but a total of 158 birds fed on the cherry and mulberry trees in Big Pond Sanctuary on May 10 (KC). Few observers mentioned the Loggerhead Shrike but sightings occurred in the following locations: two in Calloway County (*fide* CP), four in Grayson County (KC, AW), one in Jefferson County and two in Carlisle County (S, DS, FS).

Vireos through Warblers — A total of 23 White-eyed Vireos was seen in Calloway County on May 2 on an all-day count (*fide* CP) while 41 were on the Grayson County count on May 10 (KC, Houston Lush, AW). Ten Solitary Vireos were found in the Falls of the Rough area on May 10 (KC). Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos were in low numbers. A Red-eyed Vireo arrived at MCFH on April 1 and tied Kentucky's early record date (FB). The majority of observers felt that the warbler migration was poor and that numbers were low. The Common Yellowthroat appeared to be the only warbler species where fair numbers were found. Warblers arrived later than normal. A small flock of six Yellow Warblers, near Lake Barkley, Trigg County on May 29 was thought unusual (CP). A Cape May Warbler was still present at Burlington on May 17 (LMc). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen near Danville (no date given — W. Kemper *fide* FL). A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was still present at the campground area near Kentucky Dam on May 13 (S, DS, FS). Interesting Pine Warbler reports included one heard on March 6 at Madisonville, Hopkins County and heard often during March, April and through May 31 (JH) and also heard at two other locations in Hopkins County; one in Hodgenville, Larue County on May 10 (JEl). Ten to 12 Cerulean Warblers were observed in Mammoth Cave National Park on May 2 (SK). A Swainson's Warbler was heard and seen in the headwaters of Eagle Creek, McCreary County on May 6 (BPB, M. Medley). A Connecticut and two Mourning Warblers were observed in Louisville on May 10 and May 19, respectively, while another Mourning was reported in Calloway County on May 13 (BPB and the latter species with H. Wieting). A Canada Warbler was still present in Hart County on May 28 (SK). The Yellow-breasted Chat was thought to be "extremely scarce" in McLean County (RI).

Grosbeaks through Sparrows — Blue Grosbeaks were reported in small numbers from Fulton (S, DS, FS), Calloway (MM *et al.* *fide* CP), Hopkins (JH) and Hart counties (SK). Good numbers of Dickcissels were in western Fulton County on May 14 and 15 (S, FS, DS). Four Bachman's Sparrows were reported near Hardin, Calloway County (E. Van Slyke *fide* CP). A few Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were first noted at CKWMA (GR) and others on Schuler Lane, Louisville on May 3 (BPB). Grasshopper Sparrows were also observed at the Greater Cincinnati Airport, Boone County on May 9 (LMc) and two Henslow's Sparrows arrived at MCFH on the early date of March 12 (FB).

Bobolinks through Finches — Bobolinks were barely mentioned and the only sizeable flock reported had 30+ birds at Science Hill, Pulaski County on May 2 (JEL); singles were noted in Shelby, Jefferson (WB), and Calloway counties (*fide* CP). Twenty-four Rusty Blackbirds were seen in the Nettleroth Sanctuary, Louisville on March 12 (LR). Orchard Orioles appeared unusually common in many areas. They were first reported in Hopkins County on April 20 (JH); three birds were heard singing until 9:15 p.m. at Ken Lake on May 13 (S, DS, FS). Northern Orioles were common in western Fulton County, but not as common in Jefferson County as usual (S). House Finches continued to increase in numbers. Pine Siskins were widespread during late April and May. A total of 91 birds was reported on the Grayson County count on May 10 (KC, AW, Ruth and T. Keller, H. Lush, B. Landes, Una Byrd). Evening Grosbeaks were also widespread, but only in small groups (8-15) and were last observed in Madison County on April 22 (AR) and Calloway County on May 3 (CP).

Special thanks are due to all contributors, listed below, who sent comments and records on the spring migration.

Contributors — L. Andrews (LA), Fred Busroe (FB), John Callahan (JC), Kathryn Clay (KC), W. H. Brown (WB), Jackie Elmore (JEL), Ed Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Steve Kistler (SK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), A. L. Powell (AP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art and Tina Ricketts (AR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Russell Starr (RS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Alita Wilson (AW).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

BALD EAGLE COUNT IN KENTUCKY — 1987

Lynda Andrews, Mark Cramer and James Durell

Eagle counters tallied 195 Bald Eagles and three Golden Eagles on the 1987 Kentucky census. January 9 was the target date within a time frame of January 2-16. This census was done in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl census. The National Wildlife Federation now records only the counts at Ballard County, Lake Barkley and Dale Hollow, rather than the full state census. Weather during the period was unusually warm and clear.

Immature eagles were down from 86 (37%) to 51 (27%), while mature birds were down only from 148 to 142. This count has been exceeded only last year and in 1984, when Reelfoot Lake was frozen, forcing their eagles to seek open water on the Mississippi and lower Ohio Rivers. A mature Golden Eagle was seen on Paintsville Lake, and an immature on the Mississippi River and on Land Between the Lakes.

Again no eagles were reported from Obion and Mayfield Creek Bottoms, and only one in the Barlow Bottoms, near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. These were very productive in 1984.

Land Between the Lakes gained 29 eagles and Dale Hollow 10. The Lower Ohio lost 42, and the Mississippi River 16. Eagles across the Ohio River from Ballard County were counted.

Table I summarizes the 1987 census, with some earlier high records.

TABLE I — Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 2-16, 1987

| ROUTE | Ad. | 1987 | | Earlier | |
|---|-----|------|-------|---------|------|
| | | Imm. | Total | High | Year |
| Land Between the Lakes | 40 | 25 | 67+ | 54 | 1984 |
| Mississippi River* | 23 | 7 | 30 | 72 | 1984 |
| Ohio River, Wickliffe to north Livingston Co. (Carrsville) | 39 | 8 | 47 | 89 | 1986 |
| Ohio River, Carrsville-Owensboro | | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1984 |
| Ohio River, Battletown-Louisville | 2 | | 2 | 5 | 1986 |
| Ohio River, Markland Dam- Cincinnati | | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Green River Lake | 5 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 1986 |
| Dale Hollow, Kentucky portion | 19 | 7 | 26 | 12 | 1983 |
| Lake Cumberland | 6 | | 6 | 14? | 1983 |
| Cumberland River, dam to Burkesville | 5 | | 5# | 8 | 1986 |
| Cave Run Lake | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 1984 |
| Laurel Lake | 1 | | 1 | 9 | 1985 |
| Martin's Fork | | — | — | 2 | 1986 |
| Totals | 142 | 51 | 195+ | | |

* Golden eagles were reported here and at Paintsville Lake

+ Includes 2 eagles, age unknown.

Excludes 2 eagles, possibly duplicated on Lake Cumberland.

Eleven parties reported other hawks. Counts for 1986 and 1985 are in parentheses: American Kestrel 101 (103, 105); Red-tailed 50 (68, 76); Marsh Hawk 8 (7, 5); Rough-legged 4 (3, 1); Red-shouldered 1 (3, 2); Sharp-shinned 0 (2, 1); Cooper's 1 (3, 3); Osprey 0 (0, 3); Black Vultures 16; Turkey Vultures 1.

There were 60 participants in 30 parties. They represented the Kentucky Ornithological Society, federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, TVA, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Audubon Society and Owensboro Area Museum. Space does not permit listing these individuals, but their help is gratefully acknowledged, and solicited next year.

— Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Frankfort 40601

— Ky. Ornithological Society, 1027 Algonquin, Frankfort.

NEWS AND VIEWS

GREAT EGRETS AND SNOWY EGRETS COLOR-MARKED IN NORTH ALABAMA

As part of an egret restoration project in north Alabama, 187 Great Egrets (*Egretta alba*) and 14 Snowy Egrets (*E. thula*) have been hacked near Guntersville Reservoir during 1985-1987. Each Great Egret is marked with a 2-inch long red flag attached to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg band, while each Snowy Egret has a similar blue flag. I welcome reports of any sightings of these color-marked birds. Please note date, location, species, and number of egrets present. Information should be sent to: Burline P. Pullin, Wildlife Resources Development Program, Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, TN 37828 (telephone 615-632-1642) and the Bird Banding Laboratory. I will appreciatively acknowledge any letters.

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society Fall Meeting will be held 25-27 September at Natural Bridge State Park. Please plan to attend and make your reservations soon. You don't want to miss the sale of some extraordinary bird books that will be held during the meeting. Details of this sale will be forthcoming or you may have already received them. Anyone who would like to share unusual birding experiences or research findings at the Friday evening meeting should contact Jim William, Program Chairman, 480 Seeley Dr., Lexington 40502.

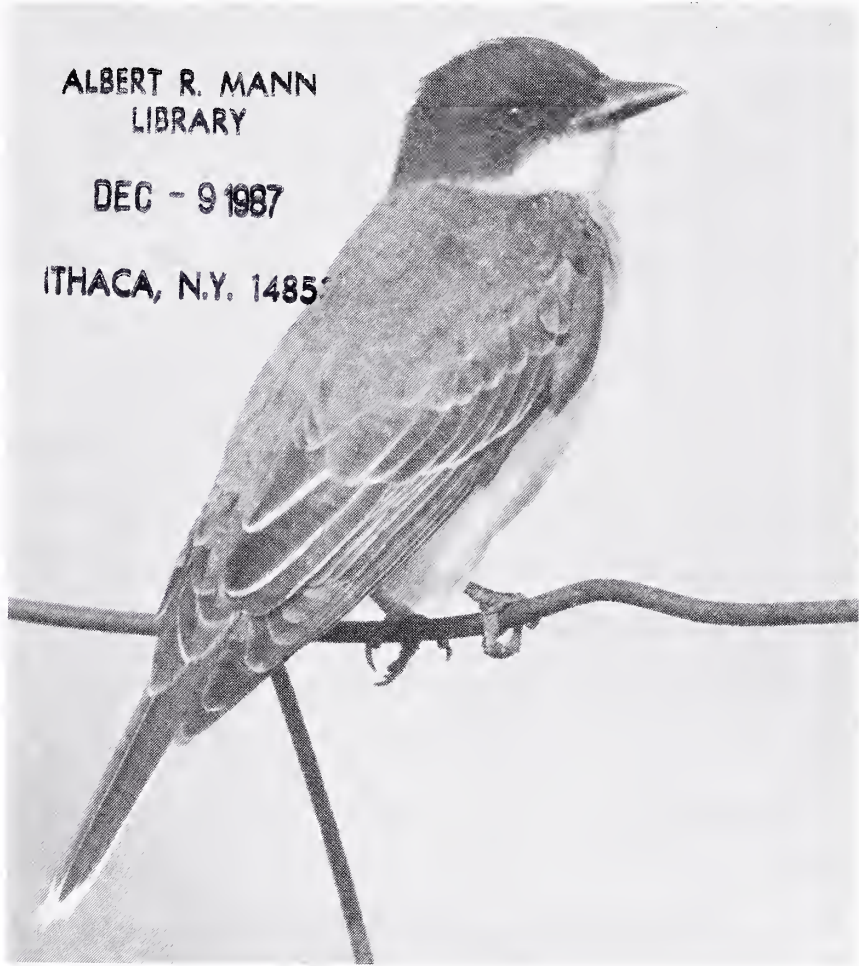
The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for our cover photograph of the Eastern Kingbird taken in Lexington in June (300mm Nikon, F3, 125/5.6).

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1987

ANNE L. STAMM

The months of June and July were unusually warm and humid. June averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees warmer than normal. Severe thunder storms hit Louisville on June 12, July 5, 6 and 11, uprooting large trees in the parks and some residential areas. The July 11 storm brought heavy rains and caused flooding in Jeffersontown and other central Kentucky areas. The storm toppled trees in southern Harrison County and brought hail to Meade and Breckinridge counties.

Ground and tree-nesting species suffered losses from the storms. A large Purple Martin box, containing young birds, in Seneca Park, crashed to the ground when the wind split the large pole which supported the box. A young Barn Owl was found on the ground after a large tree containing its nest was uprooted by the storm, and there were doubtless many other birds left homeless, but not reported. The young owl was taken to the Louisville zoo.

Some interesting breeding records included a nest of the Chuck-will's widow and a nest of Barn Owls at Burlington. A nest of the Screech Owl was found at Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area. Bank Swallows nested successfully at Boone, Livingston, Hickman and Lyon counties and a new colony of Cliff Swallows was found at Markland Dam.

Abbreviations — BWMA=Ballard Waterfowl Management Area; CKWMA=Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area; PWMA=Peal Wildlife Management Area; Reelfoot NWR=Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge.

Loons through Herons — Common Loons are extremely rare in summer, but one in breeding plumage was seen at Kentucky Lake on July 1 (BPB). Three Double-crested Cormorants were present at the Mayfair Basins, Louisville, June 14 (BPB). Great Blue Herons were fairly common in Ballard County during June and were observed flying to and from Axe Lake, presumably feeding young, but numbers declined after July 1 (CP). Twenty-five were sighted at Lake #9 on July 10, but only 13 there on July 16 and two or three on July 25 (CP). Great Blue Herons were also present at Petersburg, Boone County, during June and July, with a high of eight on July 28 (LMc); and single birds on three occasions at Madisonville (JH). There were 27 to 30 Great Egrets at Lake #9, Fulton County on July 10 and 16 and none were there on July 25 (CP); one also at Burlington, Boone County on July 10 (LMc). At least one nest of the Great Egret was found at Axe Lake in mid-June (Wm. Hendricks *vide* BPB). Snowy Egrets were seen at Lake Mitchell from June 30 to July 31, with a high count of eight birds on July 7 (CP). An adult Little Blue Heron was seen at the Black-crowned Night Heronry on Shippingport Island in mid-June, but no nest was found (BPB); an immature noted at the Falls of the Ohio on July 30 (LR); four adults and four immatures at PWMA and BWMA on June 30, but a high of 44 (9 ad., 35 im.) at Lake #9 on July 25 (CP); also eight in Carlisle County and 19 at BWMA on July 31 and 22 of the 27 birds were immatures (CP). Cattle Egrets were numerous in western Kentucky where 23, mostly juveniles, were found north of Cunningham, Carlisle County on July 31; 89 perched in trees in Ballard County, 37 southeast of Oscar and one at PWMA (CP). Also, several dozen at Swan Lake and a few nests found on Shippingport Island (BPB). Few observers mentioned the Green-backed Heron, but one was reported at Tom Wallace Lake from June 1-

July 15 (DS). A total of 200 Black-crowned Night Herons was counted on June 10 at the Falls of the Ohio (LR) and the colony at Shippingport appeared to be "thriving" (BPB), but the wind storms in July may have destroyed some late nests. An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was observed at the Falls of the Ohio in early June (DN) and six adults there in early July, a few immatures showed up in mid-July (BPB); and an adult also present on a number of occasions during July at Lentz's Pond (BPB).

Waterfowl — There were few records of nesting ducks: a female Wood Duck with nine young at Petersburg, May 31 (LMc); and a female with seven young at a small lake in Ten Broeck, Louisville in mid-June (S,FS) were the only ones reported.

Diurnal Raptors — A vulture roost with an estimated 68 to 80 birds, with one third Black Vultures and two thirds Turkey Vultures, was seen on Reelfoot NWR, in the vicinity of Bondurant, July 10 (CP). Single Mississippi Kites were observed on several occasions at BWMA (CP). Eight were soaring over the northern section of Fulton County on July 10, twelve in the air at one time in the lower section of Fulton County on July 21 and five there July 31 (CP); and a few in late June along the Mississippi River in Carlisle and Hickman counties (BPB). A single Osprey was reported below Smithland Dam on July 1 (BPB). An adult Bald Eagle was seen in Hopkins County on June 26, 27 and July 3 (B. West *fide* JH) and one possibly the same bird, a few miles north of the previous location on July 15 (Kitty Hancock *fide* JH). An interesting record was that of two Northern Harriers flying low over the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, McCracken County on July 8 (Marc Evans *fide* BPB). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed in Shelby County on July 7 (WB) and another at CKWMA on July 29 (GR). Single Cooper's Hawks were present at the following locations: Floyd's Fork, Jefferson County, July 8 (WB), CKWMA on June 30 (GR), Barren River State Park, July 3 (MS), and at Petersburg on July 18 (LMc). A nest of the Broad-winged Hawk with four young at Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve on July 4 was noteworthy (LMc). A few nests of the Red-tailed Hawk were reported: bird incubating at Taylorsport, Boone County on March 1 (LMc); and a nest in the Danville area on March 29 (FL). Two nests of the American Kestrel were found at CKWMA: One nest fledged three young and the other was destroyed by predators (GR).

Shorebirds — A Piping Plover at the Falls of the Ohio on July 20 tied our early state date and an American Avocet was early at the same location on July 14 (BPB). Other species of shorebirds arrived a bit later than usual. Two Greater Yellowlegs returned to the vicinity of Bondurant and one at Lake #9, Fulton County on July 25 (CP) and next recorded at the Falls of the Ohio on July 31 (LR). A Lesser Yellowleg made its appearance at Lake #9 on July 16 (CP) and at the Falls of the Ohio on July 18 (BPB). A few Spotted Sandpipers were noted at the Falls of the Ohio, but periods of high water may have made it impossible for them to nest successfully (BPB). There were at least 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers and a single Sanderling at Lake #9 on July 25 (CP). A Western Sandpiper was noted at the Falls of the Ohio on July 20-22 (BPB) and Least Sandpipers were first observed at Lake #9 on July 10 (CP). Pectoral Sandpipers were first reported at Lake #9 on July 16 (CP) and at the Falls of the Ohio on July 19 (BPB). Two Stilt Sandpipers were

present at Bondurant on July 25 and some 350 shorebirds of various species at Lake #9 (CP). A Short-billed Dowitcher was observed at Lake #9 on July 10 and a Long-billed Dowitcher, in breeding plumage, on July 25 (all details noted — CP).

Gulls and Terns — A few Laughing Gulls were again reported: one at the Falls of the Ohio on June 10 (LR), one there June 14 (BPB) and one at Lake Barkley on July 1 (W. Haag, BPB). A sub-adult Franklin's Gull was noted at Louisville on July 18-22 (BPB) and on July 31 (LR, S, FS). Five Ring-billed Gulls lingered at the Falls of the Ohio during June and July (BPB), with a high of 10 present on June 10 (LR). A second-year Herring Gull remained in the vicinity of the Falls of the Ohio during June and up to late July (BPB) and an adult noted above Paducah on the Ohio River on July 1 (W. Haag, BPB). One to two Caspian Terns were seen on the Mississippi River in Carlisle and Hickman counties on June 29-30 and on the Ohio River above Paducah on July 1 (BPB, W. Haag). A Common Tern was seen on the Mississippi River downstream from Wickliffe on June 29 and a Forster's Tern above Barkley Dam on July 1 (BPB, W. Haag); and another Forster's still present on June 10 at the Falls of the Ohio (LR). Least Terns appeared to have had a good nesting year. They were numerous at two large nesting colonies in Carlisle and Hickman counties and in small numbers on the Ohio River between Paducah and Smithland Dam (BPB); also a few at Lake #9 and 21 at BWMA (including the Mississippi at Lock and Dam #53 (CP).

Cuckoos through Owls — Although the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was common at CKWMA, no nests were found (GR). There were three nesting records of the rare to uncommon Barn Owl this summer: July 16, four young in a nest, near Burlington (LMc); early July, downy young on the ground after a large tree was uprooted by a storm in southwest Louisville, one bird captured and taken to the Zoo (PM); and nesting observed again at Stanley (TS). Four young nestling Screech Owls were banded at CKWMA, May 11 (GR). A Great Horned Owl was observed on its nest in the Danville area on April 8 (FL).

Chuck-will's-widow through Phoebes — A Chuck-will's-widow was still heard singing on July 31 at Madisonville (B. West *vide* JH); a nest with two eggs was found at Richardsville, Warren County, June 6 (BF, J. Jones). There were two active nests of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the same tree during June at Long Ridge, Owen County (Pat Brumback, *vide* BPB); only four birds in a yard during June and July, near Madisonville, as compared to 10 last year (B. West *vide* JH). A nest of the Acadian Flycatcher, with young, was found at the Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, July 4 (LMc). Eastern Phoebe nests were found at several Boone County locations; one in Carrollton, Carroll County on May 31 contained *six* eggs (LMc).

Martins through Shrikes — The large colony of Purple Martins at Oscar, Ballard County, had decreased in size from the previous year (S, DS, FS), and young nestlings were victims of a storm, when the wind broke a pole which supported a large nesting box, in Seneca Park, Louisville (S, FS). Two pairs of Tree Swallows occupied Eastern Bluebird boxes in Shelby County on the Fred Wische Farm (*vide* BPB); no nesting observed at Long Run County Park, Jefferson County, this season (S, FS). The colony of Bank Swallows at a gravel pit in Bellevue, Boone County, June 24, contained 45 burrows, with adults feeding young (LMc); two

colonies in Livingston and one in Hickman counties contained 75 to 100 burrows (BPB) and a small one with about 10 burrows was found in Lyon County (S, DS). Two new colonies of Cliff Swallows were found: one at Markland Dam, with over 40 active nests, May 23 (LMc); and a smaller one in Marshall County, May 15 (S, DS, FS). The Cliff Swallow colony at Barkley Dam had 70-75 nests (S, DS) and the two colonies in Carroll County had 42 nests in one and 27 in the other (S, FS) while the one at Gun Powder Creek, Boone County, held 25 active nests (LMc). Fish Crows were again present in Hickman, Carlisle (BPB) and Fulton counties (CP). A Carolina Wren's nest with four eggs was reported at CKWMA (GR) and another with four eggs in a hanging plant at Louisville (S) and one in a motorcycle helmet from which an undetermined number of young fledged (S, FS). A Bewick's Wren near Madisonville on July 27 was the only one reported (B. West *vide* JH). House Wrens appeared to have a good year. There was an increase in the number of Eastern Bluebirds on the Breeding Bird Survey in Shelby and Henry counties over last year — 14 birds as compared to three in 1986 (S). Three Eastern Bluebird nests in Warren County contained five eggs each and four young fledged from each nest (BF); two nests in Versailles, Woodford County, were successful (S. Hundley). There were no reports on the Loggerhead Shrike with the exception of the sighting of one in Shelby County on June 7 (WB).

Warblers — Pine Warblers were found on the Hancock Farm, Madisonville, during the nesting period. They ranged mainly between two plantings of large pine trees and 10 were recorded on June 25 (JH). Cerulean Warblers (3) were heard singing in Hopkins County on June 20 (JH) and one in Madison County on the same date (GR). A Common Yellowthroat nest with young was found on July 3 at CKWMA (GR).

Tanagers through Finches — Summer Tanagers appeared to be somewhat scarce in northern Kentucky this season (LMc); a singing male and female were observed at Bowling Green (BF). The pair of Scarlet Tanagers at Madisonville on June 2 and a male heard singing on June 15 may have been a breeding pair (JH). There were several reports of the Blue Grosbeak: numerous in southern Pulaski and northern McCreary counties (BPB); present at seven locations in Hopkins County (JH); at Bowling Green, Warren County (BF); female at feeding station at Valley Station on June 10, 11 and 12 (DS); and a male present on July 3 at Barren River Reservoir State Park, Barren County (MS). A few Savannah Sparrows were present during the period in Jefferson and Oldham counties (BPB). Several reports of the Grasshopper Sparrow were received: present at several locations in Boone, Grant and Owen counties (LMc); four singing males at CKWMA (GR); heard in Shelby County (WB) and young fledged from a nest at Bowling Green (BF). Two singing Henslow's Sparrows were heard at CKWMA and two in Oldham County (GR and BPB, respectively). The Song Sparrow in the past has been known to breed irregularly in Hopkins County, but this season the species was found at five locations, with six birds singing on June 11 (JH). A single Bobolink was heard in Shelby County on June 7 (WB). The habitat has changed at Goshen, where formerly the Bobolink nested, but none were found there this summer (HS). An interesting record was that of a male Yellow-headed Blackbird which appeared on the grounds of the Louisville Zoo on June 3 (MJ). The bird was seen on more than one occasion on June 3 and was photographed by Nancy Scheldorf of the Zoo staff. Good numbers

of Northern (Baltimore) Orioles were seen in Shelby County on June 7 (S, WB); and a nest was found in Owen County (LMc). House Finches continued to nest in various places in the state, especially at Burlington, (LMc), Madisonville (JH) and Louisville (WJ, S); observed at Cave City during the period (MS) and were scarce at Berea, where they had been common during the winter months (A and TR).

Contributors — W. H. Brown (WB), Blaine Ferrell (BF), James W. Hancock (JH), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Marion Jones (MJ), Frederick W. Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Phillip Mastrangelo (PM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art and Tina Ricketts (A and TR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Helga Schutte (HS), Thomas Stevenson (TS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), and Donald Summerfield (DS).

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Fiscal Year 1986-1987

GENERAL FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Bank Balances, September 23, 1986 | \$ 1,313.60 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|

Receipts

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Membership Dues | \$2,581.50 | |
| Interest Income: | | |
| Endowment Funds | 462.53 | |
| Wilson Fund | 155.88 | |
| Fall Meeting | 676.40 | |
| Spring Meeting | 150.00 | |
| American Ornithological Union | 290.00 | |
| Sale of Warblers | 324.92 | |
| Sale of Check Lists, Badges | 89.90 | |
| Sale of Prints | 70.00 | |
| Gifts | 28.00 | 4,829.13 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$ 6,142.73 |

Disbursements

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Printing Costs: The Kentucky Warbler | \$1,905.64 | |
| (three issues) | | |
| Envelopes | \$ 146.50 | |
| Meetings | 796.48 | |
| Postage | 351.97 | |
| Transfer (3) Life Memberships to Endowment Fund | 226.00 | |
| Transfer to Wilson Fund | 155.88 | |
| Supplies | 81.32 | |
| Bank Charges | 24.78 | |
| | | <hr/> |
| Corporation Filing Fee | 4.00 | 3,692.57 |
| Bank Balance September 8, 1987 | | \$ 2,450.16 |
| | | <hr/> |

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Balance in Savings Account in Future Federal September 23, 1986 | \$1,664.77 |
| Certificates of Deposit | |
| 2 @ \$1,000.00 GFF | 2,000.00 |
| 1 @ \$1,500.00 FF | 1,500.00 |
| 1 @ \$1,000.00 FF | 1,000.00 |
| | <u>\$6,164.77</u> |
| Interest Income | |
| Certificates of Deposit | \$ 462.53 |
| Savings Account | 93.35 |
| 3 Life Memberships + \$1.00 | 226.00 |
| | <u>\$ 781.88</u> |
| | <u>\$6,164.77</u> |
| | <u>\$ 781.88</u> |
| | <u>\$6,946.65</u> |
| Disbursements | |
| Transfer to the General Fund | \$ 462.53 |
| | <u>\$6,484.12</u> |
| Balance in Fund, September 1, 1987 | |
| Certificates of deposit (4) | \$4,500.00 |
| Balance in savings | \$1,984.12 |
| | <u>\$6,484.12</u> |

GORDON WILSON FUND

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Balance in savings, September 23, 1987 | \$1,388.63 |
| Certificates of deposit — 2 @ \$1,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| | <u>\$3,388.63</u> |
| Receipts | |
| Interest on savings | \$ 78.89 |
| Interest on certificates | \$ 155.88 |
| | <u>\$ 234.77</u> |
| Balance in fund | |
| Certificates of deposit — 2 @ \$1,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Savings Account, September 1, 1987 | \$1,623.40 |
| | <u>\$3,623.40</u> |
| Assets | |
| Cash in General Fund | \$2,450.16 |
| Endowment Fund | \$6,484.12 |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | \$3,623.40 |

\$12,557.68

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall Meeting — September 25-27, 1987

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 64th annual Fall Meeting at Natural Bridge State Park on September 25-27, 1987.

The Friday evening session was held in the meeting room of Hemlock Lodge. Members and guests were welcomed by President Fred Busroe. Jim Williams reviewed the weekend schedule and introduced the evening's speakers. Dr. Wayne Davis spoke on the utilization of various types of nest boxes by Eastern Bluebirds. Dr. Gary Ritchison followed with a presentation of his study of home ranges of Eastern Screech Owls. Phillippe Roca concluded the session with photographs of nesting Killdeer during a spring snowstorm. A social hour followed the program.

Saturday morning field trips included a 6:00 A.M. walk around the lodge, and 8:00 A.M. trips along Trail No. 4 led by Wendell and Virginia Kingsolver, and around the lodge area led by Bert Powell.

At 2:00 P.M. Brad Andres presented a program on birds seen during his summer studies in northern Alaska. This was followed by a sale to members of books recently donated to the KOS.

The Board of Directors met at 4:00 P.M. in the lodge.

The evening session began with a banquet in the Activity Center. The meal was followed by a short business meeting. Dates and localities of upcoming meetings were noted as follows: Spring 1988 at Otter Creek Park on April 29-May 1 and Fall 1988 at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on September 30-October 2. The following slate of officers were elected for the coming year as presented by the Nominating Committee: President - Jim Williams, Vice President - Virginia Kingsolver, Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer - John Krull, Recording Secretary - Lee McNeely, and Councillors - Clell Peterson and Donnie Spencer.

Fred Busroe led in compiling the day's bird list, which totalled 72 species.

Wendell and Virginia Kingsolver presented the evening program, a fascinating look at the wildlife of Kenya, seen and photographed during their recent trip.

Additional birds seen on Sunday field trips brought the weekend total to 76. Total registrations for the Fall Meeting were 70.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING, 1987

- BEREA: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ricketts, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thompson
BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Mathes and Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Shadowen
BUCKHORN: Mrs. Eileen V. Sandlin
BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely
CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver
ELIZABETHTOWN: Betty K. Boone and Joan Noel
FRANKFORT: Lynda Andrews, Jim Durell, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hankla and Howard P. Jones
GLASGOW: Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones
HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin and Donnie Spencer
HODGENVILLE: Susan Cruse
LEXINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flynn, Sarah McClellum, Philippe Roca and Mr. and Mrs. James M. Williams
LOUISVILLE: Bob Brown, Richard Cassell, Diane Ebel, Mr. and Mrs. John Finley, Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Hectorne, Judi Jones, Harriet Korfhage, Virginia Osborne, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pike, L. D. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stamm, and Julia Wooldridge
MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell
MOREHEAD: Dr. Fred Busroe
MUNFORDVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Cap Middleton
OWENSBORO: Hope Elliott, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Janet Howard and Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson
PRESTONBURG: Teresa Hernandez and Bill Rose
RICHMOND: Dr. Gary Ritchison
SANDY HOOK: Dr. and Mrs. William C. Green, Jr.
VALLEY STATION: Don Summerfield
HENRYVILLE, IND.: Yin Rei Hicks
COLUMBUS, OHIO: Brad Andres
CINCINNATI, OHIO: Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hawkins
-

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE ANNUAL FALL MEETING, 1987

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Natural Bridge State Resort Park include: Pied-billed Grebe, Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine

Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and American Goldfinch for a total of 72 species. An immature Blackpoll Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Common Grackles and House Sparrows were observed in or near the state park on Sunday which brought the weekend total to 76 species.

FIELD NOTES

FIRST RECORD OF ROSS' GOOSE IN KENTUCKY

The Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) is an uncommon goose of the Great Plains and Pacific coast, but over the past decade it has become a fairly regular straggler into the eastern U.S. accompanying Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) during their spring and fall migrations. Over the past few years, Ross' Geese have been observed in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee. For at least the past ten years, a wintering flock of ten thousand or more Snow Geese has been present at the Ballard County Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in extreme western Kentucky. The occurrence of Ross' Geese in this flock was suspected, but due to the difficulty in identification, wariness of the geese, and inability to survey the WMA in the winter, the presence of the species had not been confirmed.

On 1 February 1986, Robinson located two adult Ross' Geese in a flock of 6,000 Snow Geese near Mermet Lake, Massac County, Illinois, located about three miles north of the Ohio River, McCracken County, Kentucky. This flock of Snow Geese was known to be roosting on the Ballard County WMA each night (Charles Wilkins pers. comm.), but access was not obtained at that time to confirm the presence of Ross' Geese in Kentucky.

Based on this observation, Palmer-Ball, Diane Ebel and Lene Rauth visited the Ballard County WMA on 30 November 1986 and succeeded in locating at least one adult Ross' Goose with a flock of several thousand Snow Geese feeding in the vicinity of Mitchell Lake. Other birds in the area included over 10,000 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), two Tundra Swans (*Olor columbianus*), three adult Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*), and an immature Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*).

On 7 December 1986 Palmer-Ball and Robinson returned to the Ballard County WMA to further confirm the presence of Ross' Geese and attempt to photograph the species. The sky was overcast, but the day was fairly bright and conditions for observation were favorable. Again several thousand Snow Geese were present, but this time the flock was found in a winter wheat field on private land just north and east of the WMA. Over the course of some five hours of study, at least three adult and one immature Ross' Geese were located in the flock as the birds fed and loafed in the field. Although the geese were wary, we were successful in approaching to within approximately 250 yards of the flock, a distance from which the Ross' Geese could be viewed through a Questar telescope and easily differentiated from the many Snow Geese.

The adult birds were entirely white in body plumage with black primaries. All were obviously smaller and shorter-necked than nearby Snow Geese, usually appearing to stand about a head shorter than the Snow Geese. In addition, the smaller, stubbier bill was also very apparent. The

"grinning patch," so obvious on the bill of the Snow Geese, was not visible on the Ross' Geese. In the adult birds, the legs were pink and the bill was pink suffused with blue-gray on the basal one-third. The immature bird was distinguishable due to the presence of a grayish wash only on the crown and nape, gray legs, and more extensive gray wash on the bill. In overall color the immature Ross' Goose appeared paler than adjacent white phase immature Snow Geese; otherwise its size and proportions were similar to the adult birds. Although of very poor quality, several photographs were obtained of one of the adult birds, showing the smaller size and stubbier bill. It is hoped that future visits will yield better photographs of the Ross' Geese at the Ballard County WMA.

Although this preliminary survey has documented the occurrence of Ross' Geese in western Kentucky, it is unknown whether or not this species occurs there with regularity. It is likely that Ross' Geese do not occur elsewhere in the state except on an extremely casual basis due to the general lack of large concentrations of Snow Geese outside of Ballard County. However, it is not unlikely that a few Ross' Geese have been present each winter on the Ballard County WMA during the past decade. In order to determine the status of the Ross' Goose in the state an attempt will be made to survey the Snow Goose population at the management area over the next few years. — BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222, and JOHN C. ROBINSON, P.O. Box 215, Dover, TN 37058.

A BROAD-WINGED HAWK'S NEST IN NORTHERN KENTUCKY

On July 4, 1987 I was fortunate to discover an active nest of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). The nest was located on the Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve, a Nature Conservancy-owned area in Boone County, six miles west of Burlington. The nest was on a moderate hillside along a small spring-fed stream, approximately 40 feet high in the crotch of a Sycamore tree.

When first discovered, the nest contained three nearly grown young. The birds were fed once by an adult bird during this first observation. A subsequent visit on July 6 found only two young in the nest, with an adult again present, calling and flying over the nest site. A third visit on July 8 by Tommy Stephens found one bird still in the nest, with a second young bird on a limb near the nest.

This record is one of the few for this species nesting in the Outer Bluegrass region of the state. Nesting has likely occurred in the vicinity of the preserve for several years, as adults have often been seen during the breeding season in this area. — LEE MCNEELY, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Regular participants in the Mid-winter Bird Count should have received forms for this winter's count. If you have not received these forms or you would like to organize a count in your area for the first time, please contact the editor, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. The Mid-Winter Bird Count this year should be conducted on a date between December 17 and January 3.

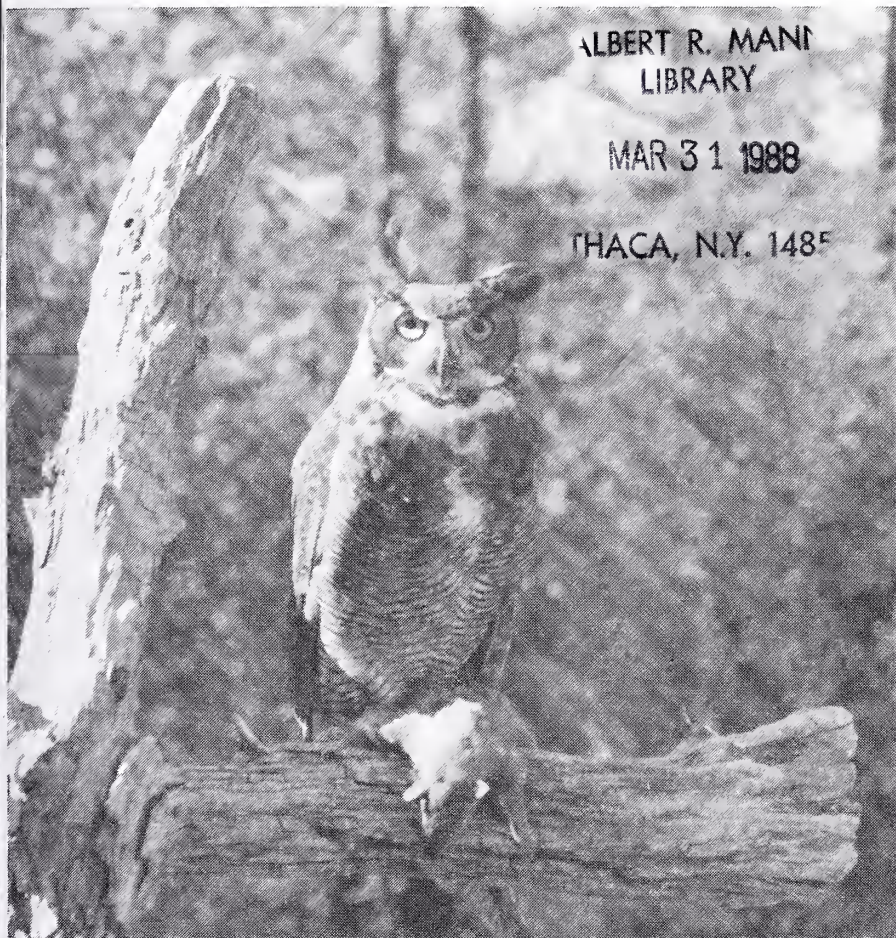
The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for our cover photograph of the injured but recovering Great Horned Owl (300mm Nikon, F3, 125/5.6).

MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT

1987-1988

Reports of 24 counts were received from across the state. A total of 116 species was observed on count days, 104 of which are represented on the table. Those species not represented on the table included: one Great Egret (Rowan County), one Black-crowned Night-Heron (Louisville), five Greater Scaup (Ballard County), an adult Golden Eagle (Bernheim Forest), two Merlin (Lexington), two Northern Goshawks (one each at Marion and Yelvington, not verified), a Ruffed Grouse (Rowan County), a Lesser Black-backed Gull (Land Between the Lakes), a *Selasphorus* hummingbird (Louisville), two Bewick's Wrens (one each at Lexington and Frankfort), three Pine Warblers (1-Calloway County; 2-Yelvington), and two Chipping Sparrows (one each at Calloway County and Land Between the Lakes). Thirteen species were recorded on all counts and nine species were noted only on a single count. The additional sightings of three Western Sandpipers, 18 Least Sandpipers, three Water Pipits (all at Land Between the Lakes), a Common Yellowthroat (West Liberty) and five Evening Grosbeaks (2-Yelvington, 2-Rowan County and 1-West Liberty) during the count period brought the species total to 121. There were seven more species this year than last.

The average daytime temperature remained near the 40 degree mark during December and near the 30 degree mark in January. Waterfowl variety was good, but numbers remained low, except for Mallards and Hooded Mergansers. Snow Geese and Osprey appeared at several locations in the state and were a nice addition to the count, as were the Lesser Black-backed Gull and Sandhill Cranes. It appears that birds lingering in association with the warmer temperatures in December were joined by others forced south with the advance of winter weather. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was still at Sugar Bay of Kentucky Lake on January 31. Other unusual sightings, such as the two Merlin, the two Northern Goshawks, the *Selasphorus* hummingbird and the Common Yellowthroat are described in the additional comments section of the appropriate count.

At best it is very difficult to make meaningful observations regarding trends in numbers using winter census data. This is particularly so this year because there are four additional counts. With this limitation in mind, a few comments will be made. Eastern Bluebirds increased in numbers from 787 last year to 1018 this year. The number of House Finches and House Sparrows was similar to that of last year. There were more than twice the number of Purple Finches this year compared with last (507 vs. 209), whereas, Evening Grosbeaks remained scarce. Despite the summer drought, the food crop for finches, sparrows and fruit eaters was reported by several to be abundant.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms on unusual sightings. Thanks are also extended to participants that included comments of interest regarding unusual weather conditions, habitat changes and sightings.

BALLARD COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1984.) Habitat as described in 1984. Dec. 27; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 40° to 45°F; wind SW, 0-15 m.p.h. Other weather comment, light to moderate rain all day. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 37 (21 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 148.5 (15.5 on foot, 133 by car). Total species 76; total individuals 27,213.

Weather conditions were horrible for the count with light to moderate rain showers all day. Increased coverage yielded the best species total for the three years of counts here. The "resident" flock of Snow Geese was not present on the day of the count, accounting for the low total. Waterfowl variety was low (apparently the rule rather than the exception on the management area in winter), but the Canada Goose total was average. Highlights of the count included the Greater Scaup, the 36 Bald Eagles, the 209 Red-headed Woodpeckers (down from 1984), the 19 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, the 11 Brown Thrashers and the 21 Loggerhead Shrikes.

Observers: Brad Andres, Richard Cassell, Mike and Jean Flynn, Sarah McClellan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Donny Parker, John Robinson and Jim and Gerri Williams.

CALLOWAY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential and 35% pastures and open fields. Jan. 2; 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear a.m. to partly cloudy in p.m.; temp. 18° to 30°F; wind 10-15 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 41 (18 on foot, 23 by car). Total party-miles 333 (13 on foot, 320 by car). Total species 84; total individuals 7944.

Observers: Phyllis Brines, Wally Brines, Happy Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Debi Henry, Sally Leedom, Carl Mowery, Mike Miller, Clell Peterson and Lawrence and LuAnn Philpot.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 22%, overgrown and cultivated fields 28% and residential and small business 10%. Dec. 19; 5:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast, variable temp. 39° to 41°F; wind SW, changing to NW 1-3 m.p.h. Other weather; wind changed direction about 1:00 p.m., brief partial clearing. Seventeen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 64 (13 on foot, 51 by car). Total party-miles 322 (11 on foot, 311 by car). Total species 83; total individuals 7507.

The "best bird" of the count was the Lesser Black-backed Gull (BPB). The Chipping Sparrow was heard only (WB). The House Finches, a first for this count, were at the feeder at the Woodland Nature Center. All blackbirds were scarce, and the total absence of Redwings and Brown-headed Cowbirds is noteworthy. The European Starling roost that has been at Kentucky Dam for at least 20 years was drastically down last year and is now non-existent. The large number of Great Blue Herons is approximately the same number present in the area all fall. Severe rain beginning Christmas day raised the lake levels about three feet, breaking up concentrations of Great Blues and shorebirds generally. The subsequent severe cold completed the process.

Observers: Wally Brines, Richard Cassell, Happy Chambers, Lloyd C. Curry, Jack and Lorine Dodd, Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Rick Hokans, Sharon Hutchinson, Carl Mowery, Jr., Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence and LuAnn Philpot, Ed Ray and Jim Shoopman.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat river, open cropland, wooded creek with bluffs. Jan. 3. Sky cloudy; temp. 26° to 38°F; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 9 (4 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 31 (6 on foot, 25 by car). Total species 38; total individuals 1657.

Observers: C. L. Frazer (compiler), Jim Frazer and Jim Stone.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279 and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat woods, fields, branches of the Green River, ditches, and cultivated fields. Jan. 2; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky mostly sunny; temp. 10° to 31°F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Twenty-two observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 8 (4 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 146 (16 on foot, 130 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 2765.

Observers: Frances Bell, Mike Brown, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Neil Hayden, Tom Hicks, Janet Howard, Suzanne Hughey, John Humphrey, Ferman Millay, Joyce Porter, A. L. Powell, Millie Powell, Terry Snell, Tommy Stevenson, Donna Wilson, Elinor Wilson, Julian Wilson, Ed Wilson (compiler), Charles Worthington and Donna Worthington.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Kentucky Highway 405 and junction at Route 662 at Yelvington.) Habitat Ohio River Bottoms, Blackford Creek bottoms, Yellow Creek Park, Daviess County Game and Fish Farm, Carpenter's Lake and area. Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 38° to 44°F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 48 (35 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 36 (8 on foot, 28 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 2424.

As in the past our waterfowl count is way down. Missing also was the Yellow-rumped Warbler. As we covered essentially the same area as in the past we should have kicked up species such as the Fox Sparrow. Only one Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found.

Observers: Frances Bell, John Bonfardeci, Mike Brown, Cran Combs, Tony Eaden, Mary Harrell, Neil Hayden, Tom Hicks, John Humphrey, Joyce Porter, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell (feeder and area), Marvin and Maudie Ray (feeder and yard observation).

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields and creeks. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sky sunny; temp. 32° to 47°F; wind W, 5-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 4 (4 on foot, 0 by car). Total party-miles 6 (6 on foot, 0 by car). Total species 27; total individuals 331.

Although Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures are common in this area, none were seen on count day.

Observers: Joe Ford, John Humphrey, A. L. Powell, Mandy Powell, Millie Powell, Rose Ann Radzelovage (compiler) and Walter Radzelovage.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs 6 miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forests 20%, fields and pastures 70% and town and parks 10%. Dec. 19; 6:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 40° to 47°F; wind SE, 7 m.p.h. Slight drizzle 10-11:30 a.m. Eight observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (11 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 98 (9 on foot, 89 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 1,001,745.

A large winter roost of approximately 1 million birds in a six-acre roost at Grider Pond ballooned the total count number.

Observers: Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason, Simeon Pickard, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Allen Stickley, Jr. and Kathy Taylor and Dale Wade.

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1987-1988

| MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1987-1988 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | BALLARD COUNTY | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGOH | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NTL. PARK | GLASGOW | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | ROMAN COUNTY | PERRY COUNTY | WEST LIBERTY |
| COMMON LOON | 1 | 35 | 29 | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | | 2 | 26 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 6 | 10 | 17 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 24 | 7 | |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HORNED GREBE | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 21 | | | | 12 | | |
| DOUBLE-CR. CORMORANT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 32 | 27 | 72 | * | | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 26 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 23 | * | 6 | 10 | 17 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 24 | | |
| SNOW GOOSE | 350 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 7 | 1 | | | | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | 15000 | 110 | 1262 | * | | | 14 | 43* | 42 | 21* | | | 2 | 185 | 29 | 7 | | 150 | 138 | 5 | 24 | 8 | | |
| WOOD DUCK | | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | 14 | | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | 37 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | 12 | | | | | | |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | 12 | 1 | 118 | | | | | | 12 | 2 | | | | 175 | | 4 | | 18 | 22 | 15 | 1 | | | |
| MALLARD | 500 | 45 | 514 | * | | 5 | 3 | 14 | | | | 38 | 9 | 1162 | 67 | 121 | | 397 | 239 | 43 | 9 | 12 | | 10 |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | 3 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 5 | | | | | | |
| BLUE-W. TEAL | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | 5 | 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 40 | | | | | | |
| GADWALL | 128 | 2 | 104 | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 45 | | 2 | | 85 | | 1 | | | | |
| AMERICAN WIDGEON | 48 | 163 | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANVASBACK | | 14 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| REDHEAD | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | 1 | 40 | | | | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | 86 | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| LESSER SCAUP | | 82 | 36 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 59 | | | | 2 | | | | 5 | | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | | 3 | 32 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| BUFFLEHEAD | | 24 | 46 | | | | | 6* | | | | | | 6 | | | | 4 | | | | 3 | | |

[illegible]

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1987-1988

| | BALLARD COUNTY | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NTL. PARK | GLASGOW | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | ROWAN COUNTY | PERRY COUNTY | WEST LIBERTY |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| DOWNY WOODPECKER | 86 | 22 | 15 | 24 | 28 | 43 | 2 | 12 | 27 | 20 | 7 | 26 | 42 | 128 | 9 | 56 | 23 | 65 | 36 | 50 | 8 | 7 | | 9 |
| HAIRY WOODPECKER | 9 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 23 | | 13 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| NORTHERN FLICKER | 81 | 56 | 28 | 2 | 28 | 31 | 3 | 12 | 26 | 15 | 10 | 26 | 40 | 74 | 4 | 25 | 10 | 21 | 7 | 23 | 17 | 10 | 1 | 19 |
| PILEATED WOODPECKER | 7 | 10 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 23 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 18 | |
| EASTERN PHOEBE | | | 8 | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | |
| HORNED LARK | 140 | | | | 76 | 50* | | 62 | | 6 | | | 72 | 12 | | | | 28 | 60 | | | | | 2* |
| BLUE JAY | 172 | 688 | 252 | 150 | 92 | 168 | 10 | 38 | 26 | 96 | 26 | 163 | 134 | 376 | 10 | 51 | 26 | 87 | 61 | 67 | 8 | 20 | 30 | 295 |
| AMERICAN CROW | 5 | 79 | 46 | 40 | 527 | 41 | 15 | 67 | 78 | 111 | 105 | 185 | 278 | 421 | 42 | 336 | 109 | 2085 | 80 | 114 | 50 | 35 | 100 | 86 |
| CAROLINA CHICKADEE | 220 | 156 | 93 | 18 | 72 | 65 | 9 | 22 | 41 | 40 | 15 | 80 | 173 | 474 | 16 | 147 | 43 | 228 | 109 | 95 | 20 | 25 | 10 | 93 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 166 | 114 | 87 | 12 | 60 | 58 | 15 | 27 | 19 | 45 | 15 | 70 | 73 | 218 | 9 | 72 | 27 | 111 | 73 | 100 | 4 | 22 | 10 | 27 |
| RED-BR. NUTHATCH | | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 27 | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | | | | | 5 |
| WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH | 35 | 26 | 51 | * | 13 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 15 | 45 | 52 | 3 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 27 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 31 |
| BROWN CREEPER | 26 | 6 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 26 | | 9 | | 2 | | 3 | | 1 | | |
| CAROLINA WREN | 56 | 29 | 11 | 1 | 20 | 35 | 3 | 26 | 4 | 38 | 10 | 15 | 38 | 145 | 5 | 91 | 22 | 207 | 12 | 33 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 37 |
| WINTER WREN | 6 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | | | | 4 | | 4 | | | | |
| GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET | 20 | 18 | 16 | | | 1 | | 12 | 42 | 3 | 3 | 42 | 26 | 67 | | 4 | 5 | 11 | | 6 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 13 |
| RUBY-CR. KINGLET | 7 | 1 | 4 | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 6 | | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD | 19 | 53 | 24 | 29 | 29 | 41 | 15 | 7 | 51 | 19 | 45 | 85 | 155 | 108 | 17 | 56 | 64 | 44 | 53 | 71 | 21 | 12 | 2 | 2 |
| HERMIT THRUSH | 6 | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 3 | 1 | | 4 | | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| AMERICAN ROBIN | 563 | 14 | 35 | 25 | 35 | 7 | 17 | 26 | 233 | 15 | 40 | 3950 | 199 | 842 | 27 | 341 | 382 | 143 | 47 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 20 | 80 |
| N. MOCKINGBIRD | 25 | 57 | 11 | 5 | 39 | 26 | | 11 | 22 | 7 | 19 | 30 | | 131 | 9 | 30 | 8 | 41 | 47 | 18 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| BROWN THRASHER | 11 | 6 | 2 | * | 3 | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 3 | | 1 | | 1 | | * | | | | |

[illegible]

| | D27 | J2 | D19 | J3 | J2 | D26 | D30 | D19 | D20 | J2 | J2 | D26 | J1 | D20 | J2 | D20 | J2 | D19 | D19 | J2 | D19 | D18 | J2 | J1 |
|-------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|---------|------|------|-----|------|------|---------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| DAY OF COUNT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NUMBER OF SPECIES | 76 | 84 | 83 | 38 | 47 | 62 | 27 | 61 | 43 | 65 | 55 | 63 | 65 | 87 | 47 | 59 | 39 | 83 | 58 | 55 | 41 | 62 | 26 | 47 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 27213 | 7944 | 7507 | 1657 | 2765 | 2424 | 331 | 1001745 | 1535 | 3285 | 935 | 7374 | 5804 | 1248634 | 2344 | 4393 | 2122 | 15483 | 8904 | 2747 | 981 | 871 | 320 | 1881 |
| OBSERVERS | 10 | 11 | 17 | 3 | 22 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 35 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 37 | 25 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

*Observed during the count period, but not on the count day.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 20; 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 55° to 45°F; wind Var., 8 m.p.h. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 19.25 (5 on foot, 14.25 by car). Total party-miles 120 (12 on foot, 118 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 1535.

Despite coverage similar to last year, no Wild Turkeys were sighted. A single flock of 50 Eastern Bluebirds was unusual.

Observers: Ronnie Bryant, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne Mason, Herb E. Shadowen and Russell Starr.

GLASGOW (center and habitat as described in 1986.) Jan. 2: 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 17° to 32°F; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h. Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 38.75 (24.75 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 141.3 (13.5 on foot, 127.8 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 3285.

Cold conditions during the early morning forced birds to hold tight to cover at field/woodland borders, but once temperatures increased toward midday, the birding improved. The low number of birds of prey was discouraging as was the decrease in the numbers of Herring Gulls. The sharp decline of Swamp Sparrows from this area continues to be a matter of concern; the two observed on this count represent the lowest total in the last 12 years. On the other hand, it is encouraging to note that woodpeckers, Carolina Wrens and most of the Emberizinae are increasing or maintaining stable populations. Two particularly exciting observations were the 90 Sandhill Cranes and the 12 Bonaparte's Gulls, both of which represent firsts for the Mid-winter Bird Counts in this area.

Observers: Mrs. Marquita Gillenwater, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Moore, and Dr. and Mrs. Russell R. Starr.

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as reported in 1985.) Habitat ponds, river, forest and farmland. Jan. 2; 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 13° to 35°F; wind calm. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 32 (17 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 104 (15 on foot, 89 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 935.

The Snow Goose was in with a flock of Canada Geese.

Observers: J. D. Craddock, III, Nevelen Craddock, Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton, Mitchell Sturgeon and Charles Wuertzer.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 24%, woodlands 25%, farmland 26%, hedge row 10%, residential 2% and rivers and ponds 13%. Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 38° to 41°F; wind N, 8-15 m.p.h. Rain the previous night and light mist until 8:00 a.m. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 35.5 (21 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party-miles 171.5 (16 on foot, 155.5 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 7374.

Heavy rains fell the night before the count and continued until 8:00 a.m. Cloudy conditions prevailed throughout the day. Waterfowl were scarce. Hawks, however, were fairly well represented. The Great Blue Heron was found by Frank Krull, Jr. The Northern (Yellow-shafted)

Flicker showed a 100% increase over last year's count, while Pileated Woodpeckers showed a decrease. American Robins and the European Starling were numerous; in fact, it was the highest count for Robins. Large decreases were noted in the number of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos. The large number of Cedar Waxwings was probably due to the big crop of cedar berries; in fact, the wild food crop appeared to be good.

Observers: Mary B. Bauer, Wayne Dahl, Frank Krull, Jr., Doxie Noonan, J. R. Noonan, Helga Schutte, Anne Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm, Donald Summerfield and Scottie Theiss.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Jan. 1; 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sky cloudy to mostly clear; temp. 27° to 39°F; wind NW, 0-10 m.p.h. Water mostly open. Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 40.5 (20 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 287 (14 on foot, 273 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 5804.

Weather conditions were fairly favorable for the count. Wild food crops appeared to be excellent. The species total was about average for the coverage of the count circle. Waterfowl were low as usual. Highlights included the sighting of both species of eagles. The adult Golden Eagle was observed feeding on a deer carcass and thoroughly studied at close range (DP, SW). The adult Bald Eagle was observed in flight not far from the Salt River near Shepherdsville (BA). Other interesting observations included the four Great Blue Herons, the Ring-billed Gull (first count record) and the 155 Eastern Bluebirds (highest count since 1976-77).

Observers: Brad Andres, Mary Bill Bauer, George Crabtree, John Finley, Katie Fulkerson, Brian Johnson, Marion Jones, Tim Love, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Donald Parker, Larry Smith, Tony Smith, Linda Stahl and Stephen Washburn.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 20; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast; 40° to 57°F; wind SW-W, 10-25 m.p.h. All water open. Thirty-five observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 109 (45 on foot, 64 by car). Total party-miles 681 (34 on foot, 647 by car). Total species 87; total individuals 1,248,634.

Terrible weather conditions for a count: windy, warm, with intermittent light showers. Nevertheless, it was a reasonably good count. Only one rarity was reported (see below), and all-time highs were set on Mourning Doves and House Finches. Numbers of Eastern Meadowlarks were very low. A blackbird roost (probably not a winter roost, only temporary) was found within the count circle; line numbers in the evening for several lines (estimated to be about half the roost) amounted to about 1.2 million birds, probably a total of 2.5-3 million birds present.

A *Selasphorus* sp. (hummingbird) has been present at a hummingbird feeder since late November. As of this date (4 January), this bird has been seen by many and photographed, but circumstances have not permitted examination in the hand (necessary for definitive species identity to Rufous or Allen's). It is apparently an immature female, very much similar to the one in southern Indiana last year (this latter bird was enticed into a basement, enclosed and released in March after surviving the winter). Close examination in the field has eliminated Broad-tailed but one can go no further. This bird will undoubtedly succumb to the

winter temperatures, although so far it has survived several nights into the teens.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Mary Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Don Blackburn, K. W. Clay, Muriel Doolittle, Diane Ebel, D. L. Garst, Stuart Jenkins, Marian Jones, Frank Krull, Jr., Frank Krull, Sr., John Krull, Larry Lock, B. L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mark Monroe, K. C. Mudd, Dottie Muntan, Doxie Noonan, J. R. Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Donald Parker, Jim Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Bob Quaife, Lene Rauth, Virginia Rommel, Carl Schultz, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith, Anne Stamm, F. W. Stamm, Steve Washburn, Robert Zarembo (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center .75 miles south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on Highway 714.) Habitat elevation 640' - 1190', farm land, fallow land, residential, wooded and grassland. Jan. 2; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 15° to 35°F; wind N-NW, 0-5 m.p.h. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 10.5 (1.5 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 209 (1 on foot, 208 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 2344.

Observers: W. Todd Brown and W. Horace Brown (compiler) and Betsy Davidson.

FRANKFORT (center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 20; 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 57° to 42°F; wind SW, 18-28 m.p.h. Intermittent light rain in a.m., all water open. Twelve observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 54.5 (26 on foot, 28.5 by car). Total party-miles 366 (30 on foot, 336 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 4393.

Windy conditions may have contributed to birds being found in pockets, while totally absent from other favorable locations. The waterfowl, except for a few Mallards were on the Tate Game Farm Lakes. An excellent crop of wild grapes, poison ivy berries and red cedar berries brought in fruit eaters. Our best find was the Bewick's Wren which has been in the farm home vicinity of Mrs. Honaker for some time. House Finches have become the dominant feeder species in Frankfort. There seems to be no blackbirds around Frankfort. Sparrow numbers and species are down according to our observations.

Observers: W. H. Brown, Betsy Davidson, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Howard Jones (compiler), Jeff Jones, Robert Morris, James Rettig, and Debbie and Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1977.) Jan. 2; 6:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 7° to 33°F; wind NE, 3-9 m.p.h. No snow, small streams and lakes frozen. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 28 (14 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 239 (12.5 on foot, 226.5 by car). Total species 39; total individuals 2122.

No waterfowl were found although one was heard on the Kentucky River. Raptor varieties and numbers were low. Great Horned Owls seemed to be calling everywhere in the pre-dawn. White-breasted Nuthatches continue to increase on this count. Wild fruits, including red cedar berries, undoubtedly accounted for good numbers of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Purple Finches. Sparrows were hard to find and were absent completely from some usual habitat.

Observers: Brad Andres, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Howard Jones (compiler), Terri Koontz, Sally Wasielewski and Jim Williams.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church and Bates Creek Road.) Habitat farmland and residential in most of the northern two-thirds within the last few years. Dec. 19; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to cloudy; temp. 40° to 42°F; wind light. Morning changed to cloudy and light rain in the p.m. Thirty-seven observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 94 (26 on foot, 68 by car). Total party-miles 476 (33 on foot, 443 by car). Total species 83; total individuals 15,483.

It seems that the last few years of drought has caused the number of birds to decrease. There seemed to be some food, but it was all dried up in some areas. We have had several sightings of Merlins this year.

Observers: Brad Andres, Earl Boggs, Gary Boggs, Mable Boggs, Patrick Boggs, Ann Bradly, Eugene Bradly, Rose Canon, Manton Cornett, Ruth Davis, Ron Duncan, Lyda Feck, Doris Ferm, Jean Flynn, Mike Flynn, Jon Glixon, Ruth Housek, Lula Kirkland, Terri Koontz, Mike Lorton, Betty Maxson, Sarah McClellan, Bob McNeece, Robert Morris (compiler), Glenn Raleigh, Ralph Reiss, Michael Stelling, Richard Stofer, Mrs. R. Stofer, Mary Strong, Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, Andrew Uterhart, Marion Uterhart, Glen Wells, Jim Wilson and Bernice Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat 10.75% residential, 6.25% lakesides, 14% woodland, 56.25% farmland, 10.25% streamsides and 2.5% parks. Dec. 19; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy a.m. to rain in p.m.; temp. 40° to 50°F; wind NE, 0-5 m.p.h. Twenty-five observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 48 (14 on foot, 34 by car). Total party-miles 371.55 (21.25 on foot, 350.3 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 8904.

Observers: Ernie Baird, Ron Barbato, Andy Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Scott Eklund, Virginia Eklund, Torb Ergon, Mrs. Tom and Tobin Foster, John Gower, JoAnn and Mike Hamm, Morton Hoaglund, Matt Huff, Mosiell Jester, Jack Kellam, Bill Kemper, F. W. Loetscher, Eric Mount, John Nichols, Don Pelley, Louis Robinson, Joe Russell, Charles Vahlkamp and Greg Wagner.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, KY.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 30%, farmland and fields 30%, streams and river 30% and residential 10%. Jan. 2; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 9° to 29°F; wind N-NE, 0-10 m.p.h. Lakes and streams frozen, Ohio River open. Twenty observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 40 (16 on foot, 22 by car, 2 by boat). Total party-miles 269 (9 on foot, 249 by car, 11 by boat). Total species 55; total individuals 2747.

The Osprey was observed by boat on the Indiana side of the Ohio River by Chuck Schneider. The Brewer's Blackbirds were seen at a Burlington feeder by Lynda McNeely. Though overall numbers of individuals were somewhat low, this represents our best count to date for number of species seen.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, Bart Braden, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Aleene Earle, Darlena Graham, Stan Hirtle, Carolyn Johnson, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely, Jim

Scanlan, Chuck Schneider, George Schoen, Carmen Schulte, Pat Scott, Carla Smith, Tommy Stephens and Bill Steuver. Feeder watchers were Pat Carroll, Brenda Freking, Marjorie Hill and Ed Kennedy.

WARSAW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Warsaw Courthouse.) Habitat river shore 35%, open field and farmland 30%, woodland and forest edge 25% and residential 10%. Dec. 19; 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 37° to 48°F; wind SW, 5-15 m.p.h. Light rain during the afternoon, all water open. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (5 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 77 (1.5 on foot, 75.5 by car). Total species 41; total individuals 981.

Great Blue Herons were evident all along the Ohio River. The majority of the Ring-billed Gulls were seen at Markland Dam. Surprisingly, no House Finches were found. A dark phase Red-tailed Hawk was among the highlights.

Observers: Bart Braden, Darlena Graham, Lee McNeely (compiler), Jim Scanlan and Tommy Stephens.

ROWAN COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Morehead.) Habitat as described previously. Dec. 18; 7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sky 20% clouds; temp. 27° to 41°F; wind W, 3-5 m.p.h. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 12.5 (4 on foot, 8.5 by car). Total party-miles 44 (3 on foot, 41 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 871.

The Great Egret was still at the Hatchery on 7 January. Due to time limitations we did not spend as much time in the field as on previous count days.

Observers: Fred M. Busroe and Jonathan A. Busroe.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Bonnyman.) Habitat deciduous woodlands, pasture and rural residential. Jan. 2; 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sky clear; 20° to 40°F; quite cold in the morning. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 22 (21 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 20 (10 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 26; total individuals 320.

Observers: Dennis Sandlin and Don Spencer (compiler).

WEST LIBERTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 37°, 55' N; 83°, 15' W.) Habitat woods, open fields, roadways, river bottoms. Jan. 1, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 28° to 30°F; wind NW, 15 m.p.h. No precipitation. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 12 (8 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 49 (8 on foot, 41 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 1881.

One observer was at a home feeder. Fresh water was open. A male Common Yellowthroat was seen by both Mary K. and Garry Elam on January 3 in a swampy, weedy area where we were flushing Swamp Sparrows and Song Sparrows. It first appeared on a bush in clear view no more than 30 feet from us. We watched it over a period of 10 minutes through binoculars as it dropped back into the brush and would fly back up into view. It was easily recognized by its black mask, olive back and yellow throat. We returned to the same area on January 3 and again on January 10, but failed to find it.

Observers: Gerry Lee Elam (compiler), Mary K. Elam, Orville Litteral and Francis Peyton.

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1987

ANNE L. STAMM

The fall season of 1987 was unusually warm throughout the period and rainfall was much below normal (12 inches short for the year). On 20 days during August the temperature ranged from 90 to 92 degrees and on September 14 a record was set at Paducah with a 92 degree reading. A few mild cold fronts on August 23 and September 19 brought various species of warblers and other passerine transients, but in small numbers. October and November averaged out warmer than normal. And there was little snowfall with only a dusting at Louisville on November 10 while Frankfort and Lexington received about an inch of snow.

The dry season caused ponds and small lakes to dry up and this limited shorebird habitat. Duck migration was late and poor. The hawk migration appeared to be missed. Most observers felt that the season was dull and uninteresting, although a number of rare and unusual species of birds were reported. A Northern Gannet was seen flying South along Interstate 65 about five miles north of the Kentucky-Tennessee line. Other rare and unusual species were the following: Peregrine Falcon, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Snowy Owl and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (Ballard County), CKWMA = Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, BBC = Beckham Bird Club, KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society, SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area.

Loons through Herons — No large movement of the Common Loon was detected. A fairly early bird was observed above Kentucky Dam on September 10 (CP) and one to two were seen on a few dates during October and November at the following location: Lake Pewee (JH), Mayfair Basins at Louisville (JK) and along the Ohio River (LR, BPB). Pied-billed Grebes were few except at Lake Pewee where they peaked at 109 October 15 (JH). Horned Grebes were also scarce with a maximum of 15 at Louisville on November 10 (BPB). Quite unusual was the sighting of a Northern Gannet flying south along Interstate 65, about five miles north of the Kentucky-Tennessee border, Simpson County, November 29. This represents the second record for Kentucky (M. Braun *et al.* — documentation received). Quite unexpected was an American White Pelican at Burnside Marina, Pulaski County, October 24 (*vide* JEL). Several sightings of the Double-crested Cormorant were reported: one at McAlpine Dam, August 19 (LR); two at Mayfair Basins on September 19 (S, FS); one at Markland Dam, Gallatin County, November 14 (LMc); nine on the Mississippi River, Carlisle County, September 20 (BPB); one to three along the Ohio River at Louisville during September and October (BPB) and last observed on November 26 (LR). Great Blue Herons were widespread and largest concentrations included 75 on sandbars on the Mississippi River, Carlisle County, September 20 (BPB), some 40-45 at Jonathan Creek, Marshall County, November 6 and 29 (MM, CP); and 50+ at BWMA by the end of November (CW). Smaller numbers were present at the following locations: Lake Barkley Shallows (CP), Elk Creek and Lake Pewee (JH), Petersburg, Boone County (LMc), Mayfair Basins (JK, S, FS), Danville (FL) and Owsley Fork Lake (AR, TR). A few Great Egrets were present during August and September with 17 at Lake #9, Fulton County, August 11 (CP); one at the Falls of the Ohio August 25-26 (RH, LR, respectively); three at BWMA August 29 (BPB); three

at Mayfair Basins on August 30 (S, FS); three were still present at Jonathan Creek on September 21 and 10 at BWMA on September 22 (CP). Three Snowy Egrets were present at BWMA on August 3 (JEL); one at Lake #9 August 11 (CP) and 18 at Mitchell Lake, Ballard County, August 29 (BPB). Little Blue Heron concentrations included 60+ (mostly immatures) at Lake #9 August 3 (JEL), 27 (25 immatures, 2 adults) August 11 (CP) and 17 at BWMA, August 29 (BPB). One to three were also seen between July 19 and September 12 at the following locations: the Falls of the Ohio (BF, JJ), Game Farm, Daviess County (AP), and Mayfair Basins (DN). A single Cattle Egret was seen at BWMA on August 3 (JEL); six at Lake #9 on August 29 and 25 in a pasture with cattle at Oscar, Ballard County, September 20 (BPB). Strangely enough, few observers mentioned the Black-crowned Night-Heron, but an immature was seen on the west side of Lake Barkley, August 27 (CP) and at least 10 (adults and immatures) at Lentz's Pond, Louisville, from August 30-September 19 (S, FS). Two immature Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were also at Lentz's Pond, August 30 (S).

Waterfowl—Snow and Canada Geese arrived at BWMA September 20, but numbers were low in comparison to previous years. November counts at BWMA totaled 6500 Snows and 8600 Canada Geese (CW). The duck migration was late and the flight was generally poor. Ducks at BWMA peaked at 7700 in November with 90% Mallards (CW). A total of 50+ Wood Ducks at the Mayfair Basins was a good count for that location (JK). A single American Black Duck returned to McAlpine Dam on August 25 (LR.) Largest concentration of Mallards at Lake Pewee occurred on November 25 with 163 birds (JH). Gadwall Ducks were slow in arriving: three noted at Jonathan Creek by September 19, numbers increased and 20 were there November 22 (CP) and 50 at Lake Pewee on November 28 (BPB). The first Canvasback appeared at Louisville November 10 and only three had arrived by November 26 (BPB, LR, respectively); two at Lake Pewee on November 12 (JH), but 43 there by November 28 (BPB). Ring-necked Ducks reached a maximum of 350 at Lake Pewee on November 18 (JH), which was much lower than the count last year. The only Greater Scaups reported were the five at Louisville, November 26 (LR). Lesser Scaup, when reported, were in lower numbers than usual. The only Common Goldeneye Ducks reported were two at Mayfair Basins, November 26 (JK) and one at Lake Pewee November 28 (BPB). Hooded Mergansers were numerous at only two locations: sixty-eight was the high count at Lake Pewee (JH) and 890 in a flock at Honker Bay of Lake Barkley, Trigg County November 29 (BPB). This flock represents the largest ever reported in the state. Only a few Red-breasted Mergansers were present at Louisville from November 10 to November 17 (BPB, LR, respectively), but 75 were present on Lake Barkley, just north of Silo Overlook, November 29 (BPB). Two to six Ruddy Ducks were noted from September 4-November 18 at the following locations: Jonathan Creek (CP), McAlpine Dam (LR) and Lake Pewee (JH), but 225 were at the latter location on November 28 (BPB).

Hawks through Cranes—A roost near Bondurant, Fulton County, held 45 Black and Turkey Vultures on August 11 (CP) and a roost with at least 50 Black Vultures was seen at Taylorsville Lake, Spencer County, August 21. It was surprising that only eight Turkey Vultures were observed in the latter roost (S, FS). A single Osprey appeared at the Falls of the Ohio as early as August 7 (LR) and another at Petersburg, August 10 (LMc). September sightings of the Osprey included singles at Kentucky

Lake at Pine Bluff, near Hamlin, Jonathan Creek, Lake Pewee, the Falls of the Ohio, Rabbit Hash in Boone County, and Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County. A single Mississippi Kite was noted flying over Lake Mitchell on August 3 (JEL) and three in the vicinity of Sassafras Ridge, Fulton County on August 11 (CP). In November a pair of Bald Eagles was observed at the nest in BWMA, which was active last year (CW); one perched at the Fulton County nest (J. MacGregor *fide* BPB); an adult at Lake Pewee on November 28 (BPB); two adults at Bailey Hollow as early as September 17 (CP); and a banded immature at Harrods Creek, Jefferson County on November 10. "The bird proved to be a hacked bird from Monroe Reservoir near Bloomington, Indiana that had been on the lake for a few days prior to the observation" (BPB). Northern Harriers were scarce and only reported as singles at Jonathan Creek (CP, MM), Elk Creek and Dozier Lake in Hopkins County (JH) and at Petersburg (LMc). Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported at Otter Creek (RH), Mayfair Basins (JK), Berea (AR) and Somerset (JEL). Single Cooper's Hawks were observed at Hopkins, Boone, Kenton, Madison and Pulaski counties. No hawk flights were reported. A Peregrine Falcon was observed at Jonathan Creek October 3 and 5 (CP, MM) and a road killed immature was picked up, south of Kingston, Madison County on October 8 by Steve Kickert. The carcass was given to Eastern Kentucky University and the US Fish and Wildlife Service was notified (GR). Seven Wild Turkeys were noted in Trigg County on August 4 (JEL). A few Soras were flushed at SWMA, Henderson County on September 5 (BPB) and one at Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County, September 12 (LMc). There were no large flocks of American Coots this fall except at Lake Pewee, where an estimated 3000 were present on November 25 (JH). A single American Coot appeared at BWMA on August 3 (JEL). On October 28 three flocks of Sandhill Cranes totaling more than 100 were seen flying over Sequoya Road in east Louisville (KC); A few heard going over Danville (FL) and two at BWMA during the period (no date given — CW).

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration was not spectacular and numbers were low. The drought in Kentucky dried up ponds and shorebird habitat was limited. Black-bellied Plovers were present at four locations in numbers from one to four while Lesser Golden-Plovers (single birds) showed up at three locations. Three Semipalmated Plovers returned to Lake #9 by July 11 (CP), seven on August 3 (JEL); five at Jonathan Creek (CP) — and six in Carlisle County (BPB), September 21 and 20, respectively. Flocks of Killdeer fluctuated during August and September from 50-150 at the Falls of the Ohio, 100 along the Mississippi sandbars in Carlisle County (BPB) to 125 at Jonathan Creek (CP). Eight Avocets were observed at the Falls of the Ohio on September 12 (LR) and two there September 13 (RH). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were present only in small numbers. Upland Sandpipers, usually rare in fall, showed up at two locations: two birds at Jonathan Creek on August 11 (CP); one August 22 (MM); and one at the Falls of the Ohio August 22 (BBC). Single Sanderlings were seen at Hamlin Island, Calloway County, July 25 (MM), Jonathan Creek August 21 (CP); a few at the Falls of the Ohio (no specific dates given) and 28 on a mudflat along the Mississippi River in Carlisle County, September 20 (BPB). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Louisville on August 11 was the only one reported (LR). A Baird's Sandpiper returned to the Falls of the Ohio on August 2 (JP, BBC); later sightings of one to two birds were at lake #9, Jonathan Creek, BWMA, SWMA (BPB) and Louisville (RH). Few observers commented on the Pectoral, but numbers were apparently low,

although 75 were counted at BWMA on August 29. Dunlin were late and only a few had returned by late November. Stilt Sandpipers were present at the Falls of the Ohio on August 2 (JP) and August 5 (JEL); nine at Lake #9 (CP); a high count of 15 at Jonathan Creek (MM) and 17 at BWMA on September 20 (BPB). The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper was one at Falls of the Ohio, September 7 (JEL, BPB, M. Stinson). Short-billed Dowitchers were present from August 3 to August 30 in numbers from one to four; all were in western Kentucky. Three Common Snipe returned to BWMA August 29 (BPB), but 18 were present at Jonathan Creek on November 29 (CP).

Gulls through Terns—Two immature Laughing Gulls, rare late summer visitants, were present above Barkley Dam on August 30 (LR) and a juvenile plumaged bird at the same location on September 5 may have been one of the two previously recorded birds (BPB). The Franklin's Gull which had been present at the Falls of the Ohio in late July was still present on August 2 (JP); three there on September 12 (BPB); and one at Jonathan Creek on October 3 (CP). A Bonaparte's Gull was unusually early at Louisville on August 2 and established an early state date (JP, BBC). One to three Bonaparte's Gulls were observed in Boyle County (FL); eight at Jonathan Creek on November 4 and 10 at Lake Barkley, north of US 68 on November 22 (CP). A good movement developed on November 28 and 29 with 25 birds at Lake Barkley at Kuttawa and 160 at Kentucky Lake above the dam (BPB). Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were present but in less than normal numbers. One to two Caspian Terns were present at the Falls of the Ohio on August 5 and 11 (JEL, LR). A Common Tern was seen at Doe Run Lake, Kenton County on August 17 (EG) and four to ten on September 12 at Louisville (LR, BPB). Six Forster's Terns were noted along the Mississippi River, Carlisle County on August 29 (BPB); some 20-25 at the Falls of the Ohio on September 12 (BPB) and one still present the following day (LR). There were several sightings of the Least Tern: seventeen at Lake Mitchell and five at Lake #9 on August 3 (JEL); fourteen at the latter location on August 11 (CP); one still there on August 29 (BPB) and one at the Falls of the Ohio September 1 (LR). Two Black Terns had arrived at the Falls of the Ohio by July 19 (BF), 17 were there on August 9 (RH, M. Stinson), two on August 15 (DN), and six on September 12 (LR); one at Jonathan Creek on August 28 (MM).

Cuckoo through Swallows—A Black-billed Cuckoo was reported at Louisville on September 19 (BPB). A Snowy Owl observed near Florence, Boone County on November 10 was unexpected and created much excitement (LMc *et al.*). Flocks of Common Nighthawks totaling 500+ birds were seen along the Snyder Freeway, Jefferson County on August 30 (DN); some 200+ at Science Hill, Pulaski County on September 7 (JEL); moderate flights at Danville on August 31 (FL); and 100+ at Bowling Green (BF). A Chuck-will's-widow was last heard in Hopkins County on September 13 and established a late date (Bonnie West *vide* JH). An interesting record on August 30 was five Whip-poor-wills flying over Bowling Green; one bird calling (BF). A fair migration of Chimney Swifts noted on August 22 when 500 were seen at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB); some 75 over Ten Broeck in east Louisville on August 30 (S, FS); one rather late straggler over Frankfort on October 31 (Sherri Evans *vide* BPB). More than 30 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds gathered at feeders at Land Between the Lakes on August 4 (JEL). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was studied carefully on the Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville on

August 23 (BPB). Swallow concentrations included 50 Tree Swallows at Owsley Fork Lake on October 3 (AR, TR); a flock of 500 swallows at Lake #9 consisted of approximately one-half Bank and one-half Cliff Swallows on August 29 (BPB). The report of small nesting colonies of the Cliff Swallow in Greenup and Lewis counties during July came too late for inclusion in the 1987 Nesting Season Report. These new colonies extend the species breeding range to extreme northeastern Kentucky (J. Macgregor *vide* BPB).

Crows through Shrikes — A flock of 1000 American Crows was seen along Interstate 65 and the Outer Loop, Louisville on November 23 and suggested the existence of a winter roost (DN). A single Fish Crow was reported in Carlisle County on August 29 (BPB). Brown Creepers were late in arriving and few were reported. Single Winter Wrens returned to Creason Park and Otter Creek Park on September 26 (DN, RH, respectively). The Sedge Wren singing close to the road between Dalton and Beulah, Hopkins County on August 25 was noteworthy (JH). Several Marsh Wrens were observed at SWMA on October 11 (BPB). The Golden-crowned Kinglet was not reported at CKWMA until October 22 (GR). No kinglet movement was noted. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was first observed at Creason Park on September 26 (DN) and at Madisonville on October 13 (JH) and at CKWMA on October 16 (GR); all later than normal. It was a rather poor fall for the Water Pipits, several flocks at Surrey Hill Farm in mid-November were the only groups. A few were at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB) and singles at Camp Ernst, Boone County (LMc) and at Science Hill, Pulaski County in late October and early November (JEl). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from only Boone, Boyle and Pulaski counties (LMc, FL, JEl, respectively).

Warblers — The warbler migration was drawn out and continued through mid-October. The flight was "poor especially for Myrtles and Bay-breasted." Three Chestnut-sided Warblers arrived at Louisville on August 23, the same date the birds returned in 1979, 1980 and 1981 (BPB). A Cape May Warbler was rather early at Danville on September 2 (FL); our earliest record is for September 1. Single Black-throated Blue Warblers were recorded at Natural Bridge State Park on September 26 (KOS) and in the Danville area on October 8 (FL). Blackburnian Warblers were observed at Burlington on August 29 (LMc) and the species appeared to be more common than usual at Danville (FL). A male Cerulean Warbler on August 31 in a non-breeding area near Danville was unexpected (FL). American Redstarts began appearing in the Burlington area as early as August 29 (LMc); two at Louisville on September 8 (MS); three at Glasgow on September 10 (FJ); and 10 at Bowling Green (BF). Single Mourning Warblers were present at CKWMA on September 7 (GR) and at Louisville on September 19 (BPB). Canada Warblers were reported at Doe Run Lake, Kenton County (EG), Louisville (BPB) and Westport (BBC).

Buntings through Grosbeaks — A small flock of Indigo Buntings at Petersburg on October 17 were rather late stragglers (LMc). A noteworthy record was that of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at SWMA on October 11 (photograph being developed—BPB, R. Cassell). Perhaps due to the mild fall few Fox Sparrows had returned to Kentucky. One was recorded at CKWMA on November 11 (GR); only one in the Danville area by the end of the period (FL); and one the last week of November in the Louisville area (JF). Four Lincoln Sparrows were reported: one at

Creason Park on September 26 (DN, BBC); singles at CKWMA on October 11 and 26 (GR); and one at Petersburg on October 31 (LMc). Swamp Sparrow arrival dates included one at Creason Park on September 26 (DN, BBC) and at CKWMA on October 1 (GR). White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows arrived later than normal. The majority of observers found the former in early October, but there were three September dates: September 23 at Ft. Wright (EG), September 26 at Natural Bridge State Park (KOS) and September 27 at CKWMA (GR). A Bobolink on October 18 at SWMA was fairly late (DN, M. Pike). Black-bird flocks "seemed strangely absent" in the Danville area (FL). A flock of approximately 2000 birds, mainly Red-winged Blackbirds and a few Brown-headed Cowbirds, was present for several days in the Ten Broeck area, Jefferson County, in mid-November (S, FS). Rusty Blackbirds were late and few in numbers: first recorded at Petersburg on November 11 (LMc); about five in a Louisville yard on November 26 (DN). Only a few Purple Finches were present by mid-November in three locations. Pine Siskins were reported from six widely separated locations, with the greatest concentration at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County — 50 birds on October 28 (KC). The only report of the presence of Evening Grosbeaks came from Berea on November 25 (number not given — AR and TR).

Contributors — Kathryn Clay (KC), Jackie Elmore (JEL), Ed Grone-man (EG), Blaine Ferrell (BF), John Finley (JF), James Hancock (JH), Richard Healy (RH), Frances Jones (FJ), Jeff Jones (JJ), John Krull (JK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), D. Noonan (DN), B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), A. L. Powell (AP), Lene Rauth (LR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Art and Tina Rickets (AR, TR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Marguerite Sullivan (MS), Charles Wilkins (CW).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241.

MIDWINTER BIRD COUNTS AT MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

In terms of number and variety of species, the midwinter bird counts at Mammoth Cave National Park have not been as productive as other counts but nonetheless they have been interesting. Dr. Gordon Wilson, accompanied by a "young friend", Russell Starr, made the first count in 1938 but did not return until 1945 when gasoline became available once again. The counts have continued without interruption since 1945. Compilers have included Gordon Wilson (1938-1967), Mrs. James Gillenwater (1968-1975), H. E. Shadowen (1976-1981), and Blaine Ferrell (1982-present).

Mammoth Cave National Park was authorized by Congress in 1926, land was gradually purchased, and in 1941 the Park was established. Some of the area was under cultivation before 1800, but with the cessation of farming most of the region has returned to forest habitat. A few areas around the Park headquarters, residences, and cemeteries remain unwooded. Descriptions of the Park and the changes it has undergone have been described by Wilson (Bird changes in M.C.N.P., 1938-1949, The

Kentucky Warbler, vol. XXVI, No. 2, May 1950; Bird changes in M.C.N.P., 1950-1957, The Kentucky Warbler, vol. XXXIV, No. 1, Feb. 1958). Dr. Wilson, in his publication for the Park in 1968, Birds and their habitats in Mammoth Cave National Park, listed 42 permanent bird residents, 53 summer residents, 27 winter residents, and 80 transients. The status of some of the species has changed since 1968. The Kentucky Ornithological Society has met for several spring meetings at the Park because of the large number of transient and resident birds present in the spring, but many fewer species are observed during the winter months.

Each of the 43 midwinter bird counts at the Park has been published in The Kentucky Warbler. Thirteen species have been recorded on every count and 32 others on most counts. Ninety six species have been seen on the count days. Fifteen species have been observed only on one count; these include the Double-crested Cormorant, Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Redhead, Common Merganser, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Redpoll, and Chipping Sparrow. The six species recorded on two counts include the Canada Goose, Northern Pintail, Sandhill Crane, Northern Harrier, Common Snipe, and Rock Dove. The four species seen on three counts are the Pied-billed Grebe, American Woodcock, Palm Warbler, and Rusty Blackbird. No species show an obvious increase in numbers over the years, but the following species appear to be decreasing in numbers: Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, and Savannah Sparrow. One might expect the forest species to remain constant or increase and the birds of open areas to decrease, but this has not always been reflected in the counts. Some species, such as the Red-headed Woodpecker remain disappointingly low in number; others, such as the American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Bluebird, and European Starling, are unpredictable and show great fluctuation from year to year. It should be remembered that weather conditions and the number of people participating on the counts also fluctuate.

The dates of the M.C.N.P. midwinter counts have always been between December 15 and January 2. The number of observers has varied from two to 28, with the usual number of participants from five to eight. The number of bird species recorded has varied from 32 in 1954 to 57 in 1960 and 1966, with an average of 44 species per count. Thus, the number of species recorded has been lower than that of most Kentucky counts. This is probably due to fewer participants, difficulty in checking some of the more remote areas of the Park, and homogeneity of the count area with little habitat diversity. The number of individual birds recorded per count has varied from 471 to 11,818, with an average number of approximately 1,200. Only two counts have yielded more than 4,500 individuals; the 1964 count was 11,647 and included 2,779 Robins, 1,693 Cedar Waxwings, and 1,021 Starlings; the 1982 count was 11,818 and included an unexpected influx of 10,503 Common Grackles.

Participants on the M.C.N.P. midwinter count do not expect to see the number and variety of birds observed on other counts in Kentucky, but they do enjoy the experience of spending a day hiking through deep wooded areas and along streams away from population centers and often encountering other forms of wildlife.

— H. E. Shadowen, Dept. of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

BOOK REVIEW

A FIELD GUIDE TO HAWKS/NORTH AMERICA, by William S. Clark and illustrated by Brian K. Wheeler. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1987. 198 pp. \$13.95.

The latest addition to the Peterson Field Guide Series, no. 35, *A Field Guide to Hawks* provides information on the raptor species occurring north of Mexico. In meeting the goal of a field guide, to provide information to distinguish taxonomic groups, the authors present text, plates, and photographs. The plates are inserted in the center of the book as in many of the other Peterson Field Guides. Introductory notes include a preface by R. T. Peterson, a section on how to identify flying raptors, and in illustration of raptor topography.

Clark provides a thorough description of plumage variation in each species centering on age, sex, subspecies, fine detail, and aberrant characteristics. For instance, the description of Red-tailed Hawk subspecies continues for four pages. The compactness of the readable descriptions abet their use in the field. A paragraph contrasting similar species and one describing flight patterns are the forte of the text. Status and distribution descriptions and accompanying range maps are current and are as detailed as a continental treatment will allow. Notes on behavior, measurements and etymology of the scientific name complete the species description.

One other aspect of the text deserves mention. A bibliography of more than 450 citations on raptor biology is included. To keep such an extensive bibliography from being overwhelming, Clark wisely included a species index subdivided by topic.

Wheeler's plates, depicting several plumages and postures, are arranged by similarly shaped species. Descriptive text is also provided with the plates. Although his portrayals of perched birds are respectable, Wheeler's depictions of in-flight cigar-shaped birds lack the artistry found in other bird field guides. I also find the colors of the plumages to be somewhat dark.

Following the text are 40 pages of 2x2 inch black and white photographs. Although many of the photos of flying birds show good characters, their small size is somewhat limiting. The section seems overexpanded by including perched bird photos and some rather marginal photos. For example, an arrow pointing to the chestnut shoulder of a Harris' Hawk seems meaningless in black and white photography. Perhaps better editing of the photo section would have reduced the price tag of this publication.

Overall, I think the newest field guide is a good purchase and would be used by any hawk-watcher. The information provided by the authors is valuable to every level of ornithologist. The use of this field guide will be enhanced if the reader can surmount the temptation to turn only to the plates and spend some time reading the text.

— Brad Andres, Department of Zoology, The Ohio State University, 1735 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43210.

FIELD NOTES

SECOND RECORD OF RUFF IN KENTUCKY

On 17 April 1987, Merry Toole and I were birding in the Kentucky portion of the Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Fulton County when we found a female Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) feeding in a flooded field with approximately 80 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). The Reeve was found at about 10:00 a.m. CDT and was studied for nearly an hour as it waded in shallow water remaining in a low field after heavy rain. Several photographs were obtained that clearly identify the bird.

The Reeve was approximately the same size as the many Lesser Yellowlegs, but it was a much stockier bird, reminiscent of a knot or dowitcher in build. The bill was quite short and straight, but somewhat thickened at the base and was very similar in proportion to that of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The underparts were white except for the throat and upper breast which were profusely marked with a scalloping of gray and occasional blackish feathers. The back and wings were a medium brown without rusty tones, but not nearly so gray as those of yellowlegs. Most back feathers were brown, but a few were blackish, and all were edged with a very obvious buffy border giving a scaley appearance. The legs were a pale yellow-green, similar in color to that of a Stilt Sandpiper and not as long as those of yellowlegs. A light supercilium was present as was an area of whitish feathers around the base of the bill.

The Reeve was very nervous and several times flew short distances when approached. In flight the tail pattern characteristic of this species was very obvious. The upper tail coverts appeared white on the sides and rear, framing a darker central area and covering the base of the tail feathers which appeared uniformly pale sandy brown. This pattern formed a narrow "U" shape of bold white when the bird flew away. There was a narrow wing-stripe, not as bold as that of a Sanderling, and the underwing linings were strikingly white.

Later in the day, the Reeve was found approximately three-quarters of a mile to the northwest in another part of the refuge and was studied again at length. The bird continued to appear nervous and flew short distances when approached. Several times a low "grunt" was heard when the bird was on the wing.

This represents the second record of the Ruff in Kentucky and first to be documented by photograph. Frederick Loetscher reported the sighting of a bird in Boyle County, 4 May 1968 (Loetscher, KW 44:43-44, 1968).

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, Ky. 40222.

OBSERVATIONS OF NESTING COMMON BARN-OWLS IN BOONE COUNTY

On July 16, 1987 I was informed by Bill Moring of Raptor Inc., a local bird of prey rehabilitation organization, that a nest of Common Barn-Owls (*Tyto alba*) had been discovered near Burlington. The nest was found by firewood cutters, who unfortunately destroyed the nest site. Two birds of undetermined age flew from the tree, while four younger birds fell to the ground. These four were subsequently placed in the stall

of a horse barn adjacent to the nest tree. The nest had been located approximately 35 feet high in a cavity of an American Beech tree, ½ mile north of Burlington.

The following day the four young birds were taken by Raptor Inc. and examined for any apparent injuries. One bird was determined to have a broken leg, while the other three appeared in good health.

On July 18, it was decided to place the youngest owl in an artificial nest box on top of the remaining portion of the nest tree, in anticipation that feeding would continue by the parent birds. This proved unsuccessful though, when the nestling left the box and again fell to the ground during the night, where it was recovered the following morning.

On July 19, the three healthy young owls were placed once again in the stall of the horse barn. Much to the delight of those involved, it became apparent during daily checks that the birds were indeed being fed. Numerous pellets were found over the next few days, along with an occasional uneaten Meadow Vole. The three young birds were last observed in the stall on July 28, when it was felt that all three were capable of flying on their own. One parent bird was observed with the young on this date by Bill Moring, and the following day the stall was empty.

On September 2, the fourth young owl was released back into the wild at the original nest site. Much appreciation is extended to Bill Moring and Raptor Inc. for their knowledge and efforts which were the major factor in the apparent success of this nesting. — LEE MCNEELY, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The Spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at Otter Creek Park on April 29-May 1. Be sure to make your reservations for room accommodations early. Cabins are also available. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to enjoy good birding with good friends. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairperson, Virginia King-solver, Route 1, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311.

K.O.S. MOURNS JOSEPH E. CROFT

As we go to press we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Joseph E. Croft. He died on January 19, 1988 at Scottsville, Virginia. Dr. Croft was a Life Member and assistant editor of *The Kentucky Warbler* from February 1967-May 1973. His ornithological studies and publications in *The Kentucky Warbler* were many and noteworthy. His passing leaves a big void in ornithological circles and he will be greatly missed by his many friends.

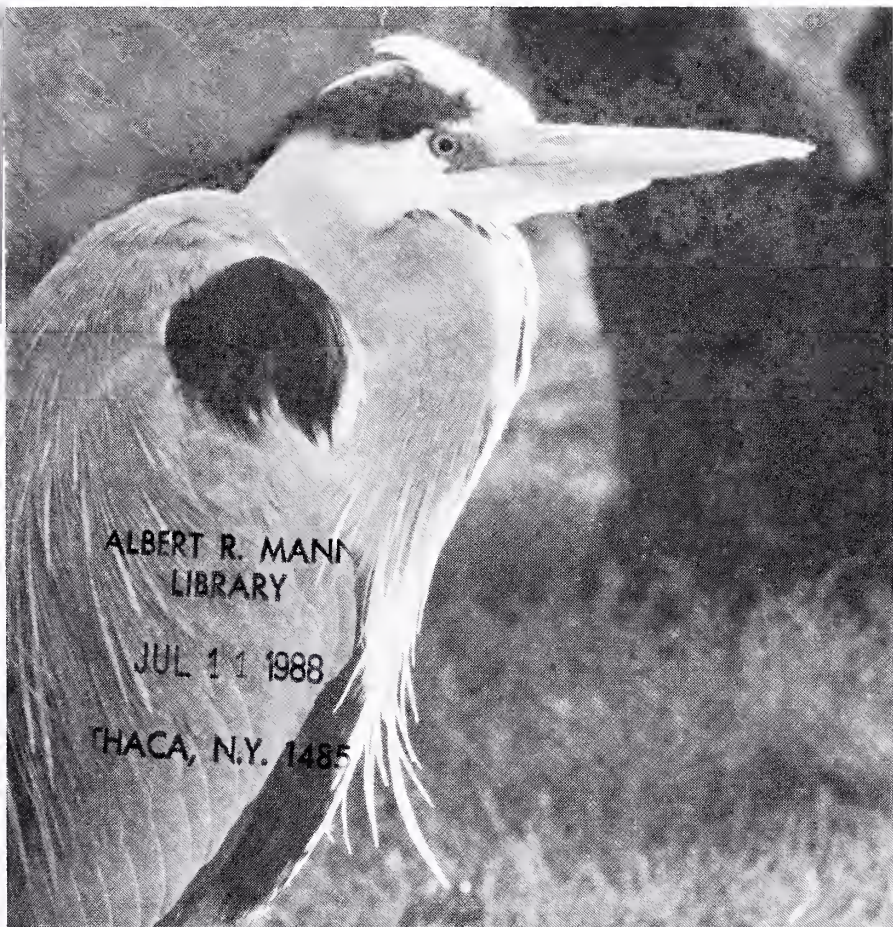
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THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for our cover photograph of the Great Blue Heron (300 mm Nikon, F3, 400 Tmax film)

THE WINTER SEASON, 1987-88

This was a rather mild winter, particularly in December. There was little snowfall with the exception of light snow on January 7-8, with heavier amounts on February 11-12 in most of the state. A number of counties in central Kentucky closed schools on February 12 due to the icy conditions beneath the snow. This change in the weather pattern brought a few Snow Buntings and numerous Horned Larks to the Louisville area. The rainfall in most of the state was about average.

The season seemed uneventful to many observers, especially those who watch feeders. The mild winter kept some birds farther north and therefore numbers were reduced. Two observers felt that "field and roadside birds" seemed scarcer than ever." On the other hand, the season was highlighted by the sighting of Ross' Geese, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Iceland Gull, Oldsquaw, Snowy Owl and *Selasphorus* hummingbird. What a treat for those persons lucky enough to see those rarities! A few species lingered beyond their normal departure dates.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; K&B Dams = Kentucky and Barkley Dams; CKWMA = Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area; LP = Lake Pewee; Reelfoot NWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge.

Loons through Herons — Three Common Loons remained until January 10 at Green River Lake, Taylor County (JEL). There were 30-50 Pied-billed Grebes at LP on December 26 (BPB). A Horned Grebe was still present at Green River Lake on January 10 (JEL). Spring migrants reappeared in late February with two at Cave Run Lake (FB), one at Newburgh Dam, Henderson County (BPB), and three at Owsley Fork Lake, Jackson County (AR, TR). The fall migration of Double-crested Cormorants continued through December. A single bird noted in Trigg County, December 9 (CP), seven on the shore of Shippingport Island, Jefferson County, December 11 (LR) and an immature in the Danville area January 30, the first winter record there (FL). Great Blue Herons were numerous and widespread. Concentrations included 60 at Mayfair Basins, Louisville, January 23 (FK), 40 at Lake Barkley, February 26 (CP), 17 along the Ohio River in Gallatin County, December 19 (LMc), 16 at Silo Overlook on Lake Barkley, February 20 (BPB), and an average of 19 birds per trip (nine trips) to Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County (FB). A Great Egret lingered at Clark Hatchery and was present on December 18 (FB), December 30 (BA) and January 8 (FB).

Waterfowl — A Mute Swan was seen at Grassy Pond, Henderson County, February 27 (BPB, LR, D. Ebel). Snow Geese peaked at 12,000 at BWMA with some 9,000 still present in February (CW); and one in Fulton County with a large flock of Canada Geese on February 17 (CP). Two Ross' Geese were discovered at a large pond in Danville on February 14 by William Kemper and observed the following day by Frederick Loetscher. They mingled with a large flock of Canada Geese. The geese, according to the owner of the pond, had been there two to three weeks earlier. They left the area on March 2 (FL). This is only the second known record for the species in Kentucky. Two Ross' Geese were also found at BWMA on February 21 (BPB, D. Parker), where the birds had first been discovered in November 1986. Canada Geese were more widespread and more numerous than last winter. The total count at BWMA in January was 41,000 and 58,750 in February (CW). The latter high count was probably due to the

influx of birds from farther south moving northward. A large concentration of 5,000 was also present in southern Fulton County on February 17 (CP); smaller groups of 37 and 30 were along the Ohio at River Hash, Boone County (LMc) and Rock Haven, Meade County (DS, S), respectively, and more birds than usual frequented the Rough River area (KC). The duck population at BWMA was only 7,875 in December as compared with 19,000 in December 1985 (CW). A male Wood Duck at Dix Dam on January 30 was the first to be recorded there (FL). Black Ducks and Mallards were reported as "abundant" in the Danville area (FL). Blacks totaled 100+ on the Ohio at Louisville, January 29 (LR) and a similar number at Cave Hill Cemetery (S). At least 1,000 Mallards were observed in Livingston County on February 20 (BPB, D. Parker) and 1,000 in western Henderson County on February 28 (BPB); 200 at LP on January 12, where most of the lake was frozen (JH) and smaller numbers at other locations. Fifty Northern Pintails were seen in Livingston County, February 14 and 30+ in western Henderson County on February 27-28 (BPB). Fifty Gadwall and at least 30-50 Canvasbacks were noted at LP on December 26 (BPB), but 1,150 Canvasbacks were at Lake Barkley, above the Dam on February 14 (BPB, LR, D. Ebel). Other Canvasback records included 30 at Smithand Dam, February 20, 65 near Grassy Pond, February 26 (BPB); a few at Danville (FL) and 14 at Louisville on January 20 (LR). Redheads began showing up from February 18-28, but only in small flocks. Concentrations of Ring-necked Ducks were mainly in the Land between the Lakes area and at LP, with the highest number at the latter. Counts at LP ranged from 322 to 750 to 1,500 during December 26 - February 22 (JH, BPB). There were several sightings of Greater Scaup. At least one Greater Scaup was seen on LP on December 26 (BPB); five on the BWMA CBC (m.ob.); several at Smithland Dam, February 14-20 (BPB); one at Towhead Island on February 18 (S, W. and P. Peaks); and others along the Ohio River at Louisville in February (BPB). An Oldsquaw was seen at Towhead Island on February 18 (LR, m.ob.) Common Goldeneyes were widespread, but no large numbers were reported. Largest numbers of Buffleheads included 35+ at LP and 50 at Honker Lake in Land Between the Lakes (BPB). An estimated 623 Hooded Mergansers were on the CBC at LBL, December 18 (CP); some 67 at Green River Lake on January 10 (JEL); and 35-50 at LP, December 26 (BPB). Ten Red-breasted Mergansers were present at Louisville on the Ohio on December 27 (LR) and one at Markland Dam, Gallatin County (LMc) were the only ones reported. Ruddy Ducks were few, but 75-100 at LP (BPB).

Hawks — More than 40 Black and Turkey Vultures were seen in western Kentucky in the vicinity of U.S. 68 and Rt. 1489 on January 16 (CP). Black Vultures were seen more often than usual and in larger numbers at Danville (FL); eight in Fayette County on December 28 (W. Haag *vide* GR). A single Turkey Vulture was seen January 2 near Berea, where January records are few, but they were easily observed by late February (AR). An Osprey in early February at Cumberland Falls was unusual (Steve Kickert *vide* GR). Numbers of wintering Bald Eagles were reduced from last year, possibly a result of the greater availability of open water. Details of the January survey are published in this issue. Bald Eagles were observed at the Fulton County nest near Hickman in late February (L. Andrews *vide* BPB) and at the old BWMA nest, but left the area in mid-March (L. Andrews *vide* CW). Northern Harriers continued to remain in low numbers and all reports were from western Kentucky with the exception of singles in Boone and Rowan counties. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks were fairly widespread, but in low numbers. A dark-

phase Red-tailed Hawk was seen in Gallatin County, near Warsaw, December 19 (LMc). The only Rough-legged Hawks reported were the five in Livingston County on February 14 (BPB, M. Bierly *et al.*). Two Golden Eagles were reported: one adult five miles north of Bayou, Livingston County on February 20 (BPB, D. Parker) and one on the Bernheim Forest CBC (D. Parker, S. Washburn *vide* BPB).

Coots through Shorebirds — American Coots lingered in unusual numbers throughout December, possibly due to the mild temperatures. There were "several thousand" in the sheltered areas of Lake Barkley (CP); 840 at LP on December 19 (JH) and 750-1500 there on December 26 (BPB). A late flock of 90 Sandhill Cranes was present on Barren River Lake on January 2 (RS *et al.*). Early migrants were the two over Crescent Hill Water Tower, Louisville, February 17 (HS) and two at BWMA, February 21 (BPB). Several small flocks of shorebirds of 25-30 birds each were present at Jonathan Creek on December 21 and one flock was identified as Least Sandpipers (CP). More Common Snipe lingered through December than during the same period last year (m.ob.). The species appeared to be more numerous in the LBL area with a dozen birds frequently seen. There were no reports for the months of January and February. Spring migrant American Woodcocks returned to Louisville on February 9 (BPB) and at Somerset, February 26 (JEL).

Gulls — An immature first-winter Laughing Gull was present at Barkley Dam, February 13-20 and provided our fourth winter record (BPB, M. Bierly *et al.*). Bonaparte's Gulls were "abundant" in the bays and inlets upstream from K&B Dams until late December (CP); one on Kentucky Lake on February 14 (BPB) and 20 on Lake Barkley at Silo Overlook on February 20 (BPB, D. Parker). After the lakes in LBL filled, huge numbers of gulls gathered and an estimated 8,000 Ring-billed Gull were present in the Kentucky Dam vicinity and fewer but still large numbers at Barkley Dam (CP, M. Miller); some 10,000-20,000 at Kentucky Lake in mid-February (BPB). Smaller groups included 30-100 at Markland Dam (LMc), Barren River Lake (RS), Danville area (FL) and Cave Run Lake (FB). Herring Gulls were not numerous this year, probably due to the mild winter, but a few were at most lakes, with a peak of several hundred to 500 birds at K&B Dams (CP, BPB) on February 13. The following Tayer's Gulls were observed on January 9: one adult at Smithland Dam and one adult and one first-winter bird at Kentucky Lake above the Dam (BPB). The two Iceland Gulls above Barkley Dam, Lyon County, February 13 were well described and substantiated with color slides (BPB, LR, D. Ebel). A first-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull, a rare visitant, was discovered at Lake Barkey on December 19 (BPB) and an adult at K&B Dams, December 27-28 (BPB *et al.* and latter sighting by BA); an adult (perhaps a different bird with different bill pattern) was at Smithland Dam, Livingston County on January 9 (BPB). At least one adult Glaucous Gull was at K&B Dams, January 9 and February 13 (BPB); one first-winter bird was there February 13, 14, 20 (BPB).

Owls through Thrushes — A Snowy Owl was reported north of Sligo, Trimble County, February 10 (T. Robinson *vide* BM). The only Short-eared Owl reported was the one in Hart County, January 5 (LR, KC). An immature *Selasphorus* hummingbird (Rufous/Allen's) visited a sugar water feeder in Jeffersonton, Jefferson County in November and remained until February 5, providing a first record for Kentucky of this western stray (m.ob., photo BPB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers were much im-

proved over last winter. During early February flocks of 25-30 Horned Larks were seen in the fields along Chamberlain Lane in eastern Jefferson County (MC), but 250-300 noted at Surrey Hills Farm during the snowy weather February 12-13 (BPB). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce except at Bernheim Forest, where they were fairly common. Eastern Bluebirds were uncommon in the Berea area as compared to last winter (AR, TR), however, elsewhere across the state they were in much higher numbers than last year (m.ob.). American Robins remained in higher numbers throughout December than they have for the past two years. Spring migrants began arriving in mid-February in flocks of 25-50 in east Louisville (KC); a flock of 350+ fed on holly berries in Oldham County, February 28 (S, FS). A single Brown Thrasher was known to winter at Madisonville (JH).

Pipits through Warblers—Three Water Pipits lingered at Jonathan Creek, Marshall County and were present December 21 (CP). Cedar Waxwings were widespread and numerous compared to last year, particularly in December. There was a flock of 200+ at Morehead, Rowan County from February 8 to 17 (FB). A flock of 58+ birds was seen in Doe Valley Estates, Meade County on December 26 (HS, S) and some 30 at CKWMA on December 22 (GR). The state CBCs showed the Loggerhead Shrike fairly widespread and with the highest count—70—since the census of 1980. Strangely enough, only one report since then was received of a single bird on the Shelby/Spencer County line, January 30 (TL). Surely there were other sightings? An Orange-crowned Warbler wintered in a suburban yard in Jeffersontown from early January-March 10 (JB, PB). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were widely distributed across the state in higher numbers than last year. A Pine Warbler was unexpected at a feeding station at Murray on January 2 and "late" February (WB). Also, a Palm Warbler lingered in suburban southwestern Frankfort, Franklin County and visited a feeding station in late December and early January (L. Andrews *vide* BPB).

Dickeissel through Blackbirds—A Dickeissel, late in departing, was observed at a feeder at Radcliff on January 10-13 (RH). One to five Savannah Sparrows were found at three locations. White-throated Sparrows were quite common at Madisonville with counts of 36-37 during late January and early February (JH), but were in lower numbers than usual in the Louisville area (KC, S). Lapland Longspurs were scarce and only one to two recorded at the following locations: Louisville, BWMA and Livingston County (BPB). On the snowy days of February 12-14 one to two Snow Buntings showed up with Horned Larks in eastern Jefferson County on Surrey Hills Farm and off Chamberlain Lane (BPB). Blackbirds were not numerous this year except where roosts were present. The roost in Bowling Green contained approximately 1,000,000 birds (HS). The roost in Somerset was sprayed in mid-January and it was reported that 422,000 birds were killed of which 1% were Rusty Blackbirds (S. Kickert *vide* GR). The large roost at Buechel Bank Road (outskirts of Louisville) contained about 2.5-3 million birds, according to Burt L. Monroe, Jr. A count taken on December 22 of only "three flight lines was 1,168,400 birds; about 20 samples of bird species resulted in 45% starlings (525,780 birds), 38% grackles (443,992), 15% cowbirds (175,260) and 2% red-wings (23,368)" (BM). Monroe saw only a few Rusty Blackbirds from which a total of 5,000 birds was estimated.

Finches — Purple Finches were widely distributed — and numbers were above last year. House Finches continued their spread with at least 30 birds at Louisville feeders (KC, S), some 36-40 at Murray (CP) and 100+ at Science Hill, Pulaski County feeders (JEL), numbers were reduced at Berea (AR). There were few Pine Siskins in the Louisville area during the period, but east and west of the city they were present in fair numbers. At Murray the birds were "common to abundant" (CP); 30+ at feeders all winter in northwest Hopkins County (B. West *fide* JH), 100 at Berea on December 25 and present throughout the period (AR, TR), 35 at a Richmond feeder (GR), and about 75 banded at Cumberland Falls State Park (S. Kickert *fide* GR), and 75 daily at Morehead (FB). It was a good year throughout the state for the American Goldfinch (m.ob.). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce in some sections of the state, particularly central and western Kentucky. They were recorded in only five locations: one sighting at Murray, Calloway County (CP), a small flock at Ilsley, Hopkins County (JH), peaked at 100 at Cumberland Falls State Park where 16 were banded (S. Kickert *fide* GR), a pair in mid-January at Whitley City, McCreary County (D. Stephens *fide* BPB) and 10 at Morehead on February 28 (FB).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Jane and Pat Bell (JB, PB), Wally Brines (WB), Marion Chamberlain (MB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Jackie Elmore (JEL), James W. Hancock (JH), Richard Heally (RH), Frank Krull, Jr. (FK), Tim Love (TL), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art and Tina Ricketts (AR, TR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Thane Robinson (TR), Russell Starr (RS), H. E. Shadowen (HS), Helga Schutte (HS), Anne Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Wilkins (CW).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Ky. 40241

BALD EAGLE COUNT IN KENTUCKY — 1988

LYNDA ANDREWS, ROGER YANCEY AND JAMES DURELL

This year's census recorded a total of 166 Bald Eagles, and no Golden Eagles. January 8 was the target date, within a time frame of January 1-15, 1988. This census was done in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Waterfowl census. The National Wildlife Federation now records only the counts at Ballard County, Lake Barkley and Dale Hollow, rather than the full state census. Weather during the period was unusually warm and clear.

Immature eagles increased from 51 (27%) to 60 (36%), while mature birds were down from 142 to 104. This is the second year of decline, but the warmer winter may have kept more eagles up north. Fewer waterfowl came south and Indiana eagles increased from 42 to 56.

Again no eagles were reported from Obion and Mayfield Creek Bottoms, nor in the Barlow Bottoms, near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. These were very productive in 1984.

Land Between the Lakes lost 33 eagles and the Mississippi 10. The Lower Ohio gained six. This count includes some eagles across the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Table I summarizes the 1988 census, with some earlier high records.

TABLE I—Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 2-15, 1988
with earlier high counts.

| ROUTE | Ad. | 1987 | | Earlier records | |
|---|-----|------|------|-----------------|------|
| | | Imm. | Tot. | High | Year |
| Land Between the Lakes | 21 | 2 | 23 | 67 | 1987 |
| Mississippi River | 20 | 14 | 34 | 72 | 1984 |
| Ohio River, Wickliffe to north Livingston Co. (Carrsville) | 24 | 27 | 53+ | 89 | 1986 |
| Ohio River, Carrsville-Owensboro | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 1984 |
| Ohio River, Battletown-Louisville | 2 | | 2 | 5 | 1986 |
| Ohio R., Louisville-Markland Dam | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1987 |
| Green River Lake | 4 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 1986 |
| Dale Hollow, Kentucky portion | 17 | 10 | 27 | 27 | 1988 |
| Lake Cumberland | 2 | | 2 | 14? | 1983 |
| Cumberland R., dam to Burkesville | 2 | | 2* | 8 | 1986 |
| Cave Run Lake | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1984 |
| Laurel Lake | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1985 |
| Martin's Fork | 3 | — | 3 | 3 | 1988 |
| Totals | 104 | 60 | 166+ | | |

+ Includes 2 eagles, age unknown. Ballard County 49 eagles.

* Excludes 1 eagle, possibly duplicated on Lake Cumberland.

Twelve parties reported 121 other hawks. Counts for 1987 and 1986 are in parenthesis: American Kestrel 57 (99, 105); Red-tailed Hawk 55 (40, 68); Marsh Hawk 1 (6, 7); Rough-legged Hawk 2 (4, 3); Red-shouldered Hawk 3 (1, 3); Sharp-shinned Hawk 3 (1, 2); Black Vultures 0 (16, 0); Turkey Vultures 0 (1, 0).

There were 64 participants in 30 parties. They represented the Kentucky Ornithological Society, federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, TVA, U. S. Forest Service, Audubon Society and Owensboro Area Museum. Space does not permit listing these individuals, but their help is gratefully acknowledged, and solicited next year.

—Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Frankfort 40601

—Kentucky Ornithological Society. 1027 Algonquin, Frankfort.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING, APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 1988

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 65th annual Spring Meeting on April 29 - May 1, 1988, at Otter Creek Park.

The Friday evening session was opened with a welcome to members and guests by President Jim Williams. Virginia Kingsolver outlined the following day's field trips and introduced the evening speakers. Anne Stamm spoke on the history and birdlife of Otter Creek Park. Fred Busroe presented an essay on categories and types of birdwatchers, followed by an update on the status of the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas given by Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. Members were encouraged to increase their participation during the final two years of the project. Gary Ritchison concluded the session with a review of his research on post-fledging behavior of Eastern Screech-Owls.

Excellent weather on Saturday morning greeted field trip participants, who explored various areas of the park.

The Board of Directors met in the lodge at 4:00 P.M.

The Saturday evening program began with a thanks extended to Otter Creek Park for their service during the weekend. Sunday morning field trips were reviewed. Anne Stamm introduced the evening speaker, Dr. Burt Monroe Jr., who discussed many of the new discoveries in ornithology regarding classification of birds.

Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. led in compiling the day's bird list, which totaled 111 species. Note was made of the Fall Meeting to be held at Kentucky Dam Village on September 30 - October 2, 1988.

Additional species seen on Sunday brought the weekend total to 113. Total registrations for the Spring Meeting were 66.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee McNeely

Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1988

There were 66 members and their guests in attendance at the spring meeting held at Otter Creek Park. Eighteen Kentucky cities and two other states were represented.

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes, Dr. and Mrs. Herb Shadowen

BUCKHORN: Eileen Sandlin

BURLINGTON: Lee and Linda McNeely

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

ELIZABETHTOWN: Doug and Janet Gebler

FALLS OF THE ROUGH: Joyce Porter, Dora Lee St. Clair

FRANKFORT: Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hankla, Howard Jones

HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin

HENDERSON: John Humphrey

LEXINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flynn, Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Uterhart, Mr. and Mrs. James Williams

LOUISVILLE: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Richard Cassell, Diane Ebel, Arthur Figg, Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Hectorne, Frank Krull, John Krull, Tim Love, Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr., Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Frances Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm

MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell

MOREHEAD: Dr. Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Dr. Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Mary Lydia Greenwell, Neal Hayden, W. T. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson

PRINCETON: Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Rowland

RICHMOND: Dr. and Mrs. Gary Ritchison, Tim Towles

STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson

TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA: Don Shannon

BUCHANAN, TENNESSEE: Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock

DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1988

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within Otter Creek Park include: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 111 species. The weekend total reached 113 species with the sightings of a Cape May Warbler and a Cliff Swallow on Sunday.

FIELD NOTES

NORTHERN GANNET ON I-65: SECOND RECORD FOR KENTUCKY, FIRST RECORD FOR TENNESSEE

On 29 November 1987, while driving north with my family on Interstate 65 just north of the Kentucky-Tennessee border, the last thing I expected to see was a pelagic bird. After all, we were nearly 600 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 450 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. So I was a bit unprepared when I spotted a large, gray brown bird flying south along the median strip of the highway toward us. My first thought was, "That's odd, a juvenile Herring Gull." But, as the bird drew nearer, my impression of it quickly changed. It had long, slender, pointed wings, and, as it zipped past my window, I could see its tapered, dagger-like bill. I knew immediately it must have been a large seabird, probably a booby or gannet. But with the bird rapidly disappearing in my rear view mirror, I had the sinking feeling that I would never know for sure.

Luck was with us, however. Just ahead, we encountered one of those highway crossovers with a sign "Emergency Vehicles Only." This being an obvious emergency, I crossed over. Now we were headed back south in hot pursuit of the bird. Amazingly, it seemed to be following the path of the highway. The day was cold, misty, and overcast, and the road surface was wet. Perhaps the highway resembled a watercourse enough to be attractive to the bird. It certainly looked as much like a body of water as anything else in that rolling Kentucky countryside.

Within a few minutes we caught up to the bird, and I slowed down to keep pace with it. It flew down the median along side the car at heights of 20-100 ft. My initial impression that the bird was a booby or gannet was confirmed by its typical sulid flight silhouette: cigar-shaped body, tapered tail, dagger bill, and long, thin, pointed wings with a distinctive crook at the bend. It's flight was also typical of the Sulidae: sustained shallow flapping to climb into the wind followed by a short downward glides. The bird was in juvenile plumage; gray brown above and whitish below, with indistinct, dark streaking on the neck and breast. Its dark legs and feet were visible under the tail.

After keeping pace with the bird for several minutes, it became clear that we were holding up traffic on the highway. So I drove on until we were well ahead of the bird, pulled over and jumped out with my 9 x 36 Bausch and Lomb binoculars in hand to view the bird as it passed. Now I could see that the back was speckled with white. This speckling was heaviest on the rump, forming a thin, inconspicuous, white "V" just proximal of the tail. The underwing was dark with large light areas, which seemed to be positioned at the base of the flight feathers and in the axillars. The bird passed quickly, so my wife, Kirsten, and daughters, Jessica and Julia, kept their eyes on it, while I jumped back in the car to chase it down the road. We repeated this cycle of driving ahead, pulling over and watching the bird fly by 3 or 4 times. The last time, we parked near the state line marker and watched the bird fly south into Tennessee.

The date and location of this sighting immediately suggest that the bird was a juvenile Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*). There is a significant migration of pelagic birds through the Great Lakes region in late fall, and, while Gannets are quite rare on the Great Lakes, available records are from that time of year. The chance of any other booby or gannet occurring in Kentucky in late November seems remote, as these are all birds of tropical or southern oceans. While the juvenile plumages of many sulid species are similar, the sparse white speckling on the back, thin white "V" on the rump, and lack of a white nuchal patch or collar are sufficient to separate juvenile Gannets from any other sulid known from North America (Harrison, Seabirds: an Identification Guide, Houghton, Mifflin, Boston, 1983).

The only previous record of Northern Gannet in Kentucky or Tennessee was of an immature bird on the Ohio River at Cincinnati, December 7, 1967 (America Birds 22:444, 1968). This bird was later captured in a Cincinnati yard and lived several years in the Cincinnati Zoo. I have had previous field experience with Gannets in the North Atlantic on several occasions. I have also seen the Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) in the Gulf of Mexico and in the South Pacific, and both the Blue-footed (*Sula nebouxi*) and Peruvian (*Sula variegata*) boobies off the coast of Peru.

It is natural to wonder how stray birds get to where we encounter them. In this case, it is interesting to note that I 65 begins in Gary, Indiana, at the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Given the known migration

of seabirds through the Great Lakes in fall, it is tempting to speculate that this Gannet made it to Lake Michigan, but found no waterway leading south from there. Perhaps the bird then began to follow the Interstate, since it heads south and may have resembled a watercourse to some extent, at least when wet. In any case, from where we saw it, staying on I 65 would have been useful, as this would have led the bird to the Gulf of Mexico at Mobile, Alabama!

—MICHAEL J. BRAUN, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221.

BALD EAGLE IN MADISON COUNTY

On the sunny afternoon of January 31, 1988 a mature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was sighted along Red Lick Road approximately three miles east of Highway 421 in southern Madison County. The bird was near the top of a large oak tree about 300 meters north of the road. It was at first assumed to be a plastic bag, child's kite or other debris. It seemed impossible that it could be an eagle, and was ignored. When a companion mentioned that there was a deer carcass near the tree, I immediately stopped and backed the vehicle off the road to investigate. The glossy white top and bottom were a sharp contrast to the extremely coal black color between. Without binoculars I still was not sure it was something alive until I saw the head turn slightly. That excited me enough to climb the fence and proceed through the pasture toward it. Another turn of the head convinced me it was a live eagle, and as I approached to about 150 meters it lifted its wings, dropped from the tree, sailed over the pasture only about 50 meters to my right, and proceeded almost directly over my vehicle where my companion watched.

I have seen adult Bald Eagles at LBL, Ballard County Refuge, and Alaska as well as occasional sightings elsewhere. I have never seen one nearly so glossy and with such a black body as this bird.

The bird proceeded south across Red Lick Road and into the knobs about one mile away where it was attacked by crows. It continued over the dam of the newly constructed Floyd's Fork Lake where it left the crows behind and disappeared into the valley.

The Bald Eagle seems to be rapidly expanding its haunts in Kentucky and is being reported near more small reservoirs.

—DR. PETE THOMPSON, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.

NEWS AND VIEWS

NONGAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SYMPOSIUM

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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank our staff artist, Ray Harm, for the excellent reproduction of the Northern Cardinal.

BIRD USE OF EASTERN KENTUCKY SURFACE MINES

DEBRA B. CLAUS, WAYNE H. DAVIS AND WILLIAM C. McCOMB

Allaire (1979, 1980) and Allaire *et al.* (1982) listed 115 species of birds using surface mines in eastern Kentucky. Several species were previously unknown from the Cumberland Plateau.

During the spring and summer of 1987 we studied the birds on two of the mines where Allaire had conducted his research: Two Mile and Press Howard mines operated by the Falcon Coal Company, near Quicksand, Breathitt County. We added 17 species to the list of birds that utilize mined areas, noted changes that have occurred in abundance of several species since Allaire's studies, and gathered data pertaining to the questions that Allaire (1980) posed as requiring further research.

We made systematic observations at regular weekly intervals from February 26 through August 17. Each trip involved driving 32 km over haul roads and walking 5 km to conduct an experiment with bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) nest boxes. We spent four to six hours, from mid-morning to late afternoon, on the mines. On each trip, we recorded all birds seen or heard while on the mines. We did not count birds heard in the forest at the edge of the mines, but did record those in the dead trees that were killed by mining operations.

The type of mining procedure utilized was mountain-top removal. After reclamation, the land consisted of an extensive high plateau that ranged from flat, rocky land to rolling hills. Reclamation seeding was predominantly wheat (*triticum aestivum*), oats (*Avena sativa*), foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*), sorghum (*Sorghum* spp.) birdfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), clovers (*Trifolium* spp. and *Melilotus* spp.), vetches (*Coronilla* and *Vicia* spp.) Korean lespedeza (*Lespedeza stipulacea*), fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), with other less common herbaceous plants. Seeding has also established scattered stands of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) was the dominant shrub, but there were numerous plantings of many other kinds of trees and shrubs. Density of vegetation ranged from almost impenetrable (in some places in late summer), to sparse with scattered bare ground. Age ranged from extensive areas of bare soil, where mining was active, to areas that had been untouched for more than a decade. Water sources included: impoundments that provided ponds roughly every 0.5 km, permanent marshlands, seasonal shallow water, and mudflats. The area provided habitat for a remarkably diverse avifauna. Such an area of prairie-like plant forms that was not harvested, plowed, grazed, or mowed is unusual in North America and new and unique in Kentucky. It provided an interesting opportunity for continuing studies of birdlife.

The following accounts are of the species for which we can provide information that adds to the knowledge provided by Allaire. Species that we saw but that were not observed on mined land by Allaire are marked with an asterisk; a double asterisk indicates species that Allaire listed as migrants on mountain-top removal mines but which we observed as summer residents.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). We saw one in an impoundment on August 7 and August 17. This was not a likely breeding site. Allaire (1980) listed this species as a migrant and winter resident.

*American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). One was flushed from the marshy edge of an impoundment on April 16.

*Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). One was flushed from a mudflat on April 23.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). This is the only hawk that we would consider fairly common; during March and April our counts ranged from three to nine. The voles *Microtus pennsylvanicus* and *M. ochrogaster* which did not occur in southeastern Kentucky (Barbour and Davis, 1973) have recently invaded the region and become common on the mines, providing a good source of food for predators. The harrier is a migrant but is a good candidate for future breeding on the mines.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*). Allaire (1980) listed this species as an uncommon migrant. He saw one hawk capture a small bird on July 31, and we saw two on the mines on August 17.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). One seen on April 16 was apparently the second record of this species on mined land. Allaire (1980) saw one capture a horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*); ours appeared to be attracted to a flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). Like the harrier, this is a bird of the open country and finds suitable habitat on the mines.

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). This bird has probably increased on the mines since Allaire's studies when it was listed as uncommon. Pairs were often flushed and the loud calls were heard at many of our stations. Our highest count was eleven on June 4. Our first record of bobwhites was on April 30; the numbers increased thereafter suggesting that they may have spent the winter at a lower elevation, or along the mine edges where we did not travel.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). February 26 was the first sighting; one appeared at a shallow pond. One was seen on June 4 in temporary standing water where reclamation was in progress. The latter record is later than any listed by Mengel (1965).

*Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). One was observed feeding in a small pool on April 2.

*Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). We saw one straggler on a power line on June 4.

*Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). One was heard June 18 in a locust grove.

*Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). One was heard in a stand of locust trees. Apparently the growth of the small trees and shrubbery has provided suitable habitat that was not there during Allaire's studies.

*Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubus*). We observed one on May 4.

*Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). We heard one June 11 in a dead tree at the edge of the mine.

*Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*). We saw a pair foraging in a locust grove on February 26, probably on twig borers.

**Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Allaire (1980) listed this species only as an uncommon migrant. We had three resident pairs.

*Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Blue jays were seen occasionally in the black locust groves or flying across the mines.

*Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*). Titmice were occasionally seen and heard in the black locust trees.

*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*). One was observed on June 11 flying across the road from one patch of black locust to another.

**Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Allaire listed this species only as a rare migrant; there are now several resident pairs. Apparently the growth of brushy areas has provided suitable habitat.

*Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). We have two records of this species from the locust groves (May 20 and June 4). Obviously these trees have grown to provide some marginal habitat for this woodland species since Allaire's studies.

**Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). Allaire listed this species as a rare migrant. It is now well-established as a common summer resident. From May 7 on, we would see or hear at least two chats. Our highest count was on June 18 with six birds.

*Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). We observed an adult female feeding in a row of *Elaeagnus angustifolia* shrubs on June 18.

*Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). An adult female and two juveniles were seen in a locust thicket on July 23.

**Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). Allaire listed the cardinal only as rare during migration. We recorded only three singing males. This is surprising as there seems to be plenty of good habitat for this species.

**Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). There were two pairs resident from May through August 17, one in a dense planting of a woody shrub *Lespedeza* spp, and the other in two groves of locust with understory of this shrub. Monroe (1969) listed this species as rare from April into July in Kentucky. Allaire listed it as a rare migrant.

*Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). This is an established summer resident, occurring in several little colonies at widely scattered places on the mines. Our largest count was eight singing males (June 18). Allaire (1980, 1981) speculated that Dickcissels would colonize the suitable habitats that were being created on the mines.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). This is another species which Allaire (1980) discussed as a likely candidate for future breeding on the mines. We found it only as a migrant between April 16 and May 7.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Bobolinks are apparently more common now than when Allaire listed them as an uncommon migrant. They were first observed on April 16 and last on May 20. They were most common on April 30, May 7, and May 14 when they were spotted in flocks of up to 59 birds and also as scattered individuals and small groups. This is one of the birds that Allaire suggested be monitored for possible future nesting on the mines.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Cowbirds appeared in flocks of as many as 100 or more through March and April. In May some pairing was noted but most were seen in small flocks of four to six. On June 4, there were again flocks of more than 100. On July 31 we saw a flock of more than 600 perched on wires. Perhaps many of these overly-abundant parasites pass the summer as non-paired non-breeding birds.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Allaire listed this species as uncommon at all seasons and expressed surprise at its status. He wrote that it is just a matter of time before an invasion occurs. When we began work on the mines in 1982, starlings were uncommon. Several broods were raised in our experimental boxes and their numbers have increased each year. In 1987, a pair nested in mining machinery and five pairs raised broods in our boxes. In July, flocks of 100 or more starlings, the majority of which were juveniles, appeared in the fields and on the wires. Most of these birds apparently were raised away from the mines.

*House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). We observed individuals and small flocks occasionally in locust groves from April through July.

It is of interest to note some of the birds we did not find. Allaire (1980) found no resident American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), although he saw them during migration. We saw no robins. Apparently the rocky surface and almost no soil makes for unsatisfactory forage for this species.

Allaire listed the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) as a species likely to be encountered. Although there are buildings, people, grain fields, and nest boxes there are no House Sparrows on the mines.

The Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) was listed by Allaire only as a rare migrant. We did not find this species. This is remarkable for there is now much excellent habitat and the Prairie Warbler is abundant in suitable habitat throughout eastern Kentucky. Mengel (1965) wrote that its song can be heard in the heat of the day from virtually every scrubby hillside and ridge top of the Cumberland Plateau.

We thank the Falcon Coal Company, Jackson, Kentucky, for permission for our continuing studies on their lands and the North American Bluebird Society for financial aid.

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- School of Biological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506 and Department of Forest Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331 (McComb).

THE SPRING SEASON OF 1988

ANNE L. STAMM

Reports of birding observations were submitted from western Kentucky all across the state to Cave Run Lake and Big Black Mountain, but little from south-central Kentucky. In general the contributors were of the same opinion that the season was extremely dry and warm. The average temperature for each month, March, April and May was above normal. Rainfall for the three months in the Louisville area was about four inches below normal. Also, western sections of the state, Frankfort and Lexington all had little precipitation. Many of the creeks, ponds and rivers were at levels far below normal.

As usual, there was some disagreement between observers in evaluating the migration. One observer wrote that "migration was rather good compared to recent years" while another thought it was a "dismal migration." The majority of contributors, however, agreed that while species were observed, numbers were quite low. Nevertheless, the material indicates that some species arrived early and a few lingered beyond normal departure dates. The Purple Gallinule and Eared Grebe were probably the most interesting rarities sighted.

The nesting material reported in the spring reports will be incorporated into the summary of the summer period.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; LP = Lake Pewee; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area; CKWMA = Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area; S.H. Farm = Surrey Hills Farm; WKMA = Western Kentucky Wildlife Management Area.

Loons through Bitterns — Two Common Loons returned to Lake Pewee on March 7 and remained until May 14 (JH); singles at Cave Run on April 11 (FB) and Kentucky Lake above the Dam on May 4-5 (BPB, D. Parker, J. T. Erwin), May 23 and 26 (DS, S, FS) and May 28-29 (BPB *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes were not numerous. The highest count — 15 — was at Louisville on March 20 (LR). An interesting find was the immature Red-necked Grebe at SWMA, Henderson County on March 26 (LR, KC). Another noteworthy record was the Eared Grebe on the Crescent Hill Reservoir, Louisville on May 24 (HS). Five Double-crested Cormorants were first noticed at the Falls of the Ohio on March 17, but 16 were there on April 25 (LR), also up to 16 until mid-May (BPB); a total of 16 on the islands near Hamlin on May 7 (JTE, M. Miller); and a flock of 14 over CKWMA on April 15 (GR). A single American Bittern was found near Petersburg, Boone County on May 7 (LMc) and at SWMA, Henderson County on May 6 (BPB, D. Parker). A Least Bittern was recorded at the Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County on May 19, but three were there on May 31 (FB).

*Heron*s — Great Blue Herons were recorded at Bondurant, Fulton County with "many" observed on April 28 (CP); three to four at Kentucky Lake, Columbus-Belmont State Park and Swan Lake, Ballard County on May 25-26 (S, DS, FS); one at Owsley Fork Lake on March 24 (AR, TR), but a high of 45 at Mayfair Basins, Louisville on March 12 (JK, FK) and 13 there on March 25 (LR). Great Egrets were reported from the following locations: "many" at Bondurant, April 28 (CP); small numbers elsewhere in Fulton and Ballard counties during April and May (BPB); three at Swan Lake on May 25 (S, DS, FS); singles at East Bend, Boone County (LMc), McAlpine Dam on May 6 (LR) and Clark Fish Hatchery May 6 and 11 (FB). Three Snowy Egrets were observed at BWMA on May 4-5, but 15 on Mitchell Lake on BWMA on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker); and a single bird on May 25 at Swan Lake (S, DS, FS). An adult Little Blue Heron was unexpected on the lake of the Daviess County Fish and Game Farm on April 19 (AP, MP); five on Swan Lake, Ballard County on May 25 (S, DS, FS); and approximately 25 birds (mostly adults) on BWMA May 29 (BPB). Cattle Egrets were reported from only western Kentucky with up to 20 flying across US 45 north of Mayfield, Graves County on May 10 (CP); about 30 in a field near Oscar, Ballard County and flocks over Swan Lake (no date given — BPB) and only two at Swan Lake on May 25 (S, DS, FS). Green-backed Herons arrived later than usual and numbers were few except at the Clark Fish Hatchery where an average of 45 birds were seen on each trip there from May 1 to May 31 (FB). Black-crowned Night-Herons were first reported on March 24 from Shippingport Island with 27 birds, but numbers built up to 152 on May 20 (LR); a few at other spots in the Louisville area (BPB); one below Kentucky Lake Dam on May 23 (S, DS); one at East Bend on May 30 (LMc); and one to two at Clark Fish Hatchery April 15 to May 31 (FB) were the only birds mentioned. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found on the lake in Daviess County Fish and Game Farm on April 26 (AP); four birds observed at Shepherdsville (KC, LR) and a pair on Obion Creek, Hickman County (BPB).

Waterfowl — Some observers felt that the migration of waterfowl was rather "dull" and numbers were low since many of the ducks and

geese had already passed through Kentucky in late February and early March. Three Snow Geese were still present at Danville on March 5 (FL). Two Canada Geese stopped at the small lake at my neighbors yard on April 14 and were gone the following day (S). Migratory flocks of Mallards were seen on Chaney Lake, Warren County on March 5 where 500 were noted (BPB). Forty-five Blue-winged Teal were seen at Lake #9 on March 26 and 75 at SWMA on April 24 (BPB). Only small numbers (3-12) were found at Jonathan Creek (CP), Lake Pewee (JH) and Mayfair Basins (LR, FK, Jr.). A concentration of 150 Northern Shovelers at SWMA March 26 was exceptional (LR, KC), while 40 Gadwall and 75 American Widgeon were observed at Lake #9 on the same date (BPB). The 20 Canvasbacks at LP on March 2 were the only ones reported (JH). High counts of Ring-necked Ducks included 49 at Clark Fish Hatchery March 12 and 16 (FB) and 284 at LP on March 2 (JH). A Greater Scaup was still at Towhead Island on April 10 (BPB) and two lingered through April 26 at LP (JH). Fifty Lesser Scaups showed up on the lake at the Daviess County Fish and Game Farm March 25 (AP, MP). Five Surf Scoters (4 female, one male in breeding plumage) were discovered on Kentucky Lake above the Dam on May 4 and provided Kentucky with its second spring record (BPB, D. Parker). A few Common Goldeneyes were reported: six at LP on March 2 (JH), two in Marshall County on April 14 (CP), a female at Lake Barkley above the Dam on May 5 which tied our late record (BPB), but a male above Kentucky Dam on May 26 was unusually late and established a late state record (bird photographed, S, FS, DS). Buffleheads peaked with 52 at Clark Fish Hatchery, March 16 (FB). The four Hooded Mergansers at Camp Ernst, Boone County on April 10 (LMc), two pairs at Owsley Fork Lake on March 24 (AR, TR) and two at SWMA on April 24 (BPB) were the only ones reported. Red-breasted Mergansers included three in a flooded ditch in Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville on March 25, five there April 1 (LR), a few at the Falls of the Ohio in April and early May (BPB), 26 at Clark Fish Hatchery on April 20 (FB): and one on a small body of water near Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County on May 28 (DN). Four Ruddy Ducks were still present at LP on April 13 (JH) and two at Lake Barkley on May 5 (BPB, D. Parker).

Hawks — No hawk flights were observed. The only noteworthy movement was the 125 Turkey Vultures at Clark Fish Hatchery on March 4; and an average of 30 birds per each trip there through May (FB). Single Ospreys appeared as early as March 30 at Louisville and Clark Fish Hatchery (LR, FB, respectively); other singles showed up during April and May at Carpenter Lake, Daviess County (AP), Spring Fork Lake, Grayson County (JP), Owsley Fork Lake (AR, TR), Burlington and Camp Ernst in Boone County (LMc), Columbus-Belmont State Park (DS, S) and two in Livingston (BPB, D. Parker) and Rowan counties (FB). As usual, Mississippi Kites were found in western Kentucky with the earliest at Columbus-Belmont State Park on May 10 (CP), four at Hickman in Fulton County on May 24 (DS, FS) and a "few birds" in Ballard, Carlisle and Hickman counties on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker). The first record for a Mississippi Kite in Grayson County was established on May 15 and 17 (MM, BM). An adult and an immature Bald Eagle were still present at Clark Fish Hatchery on March 16 (FB). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported at Petersburg on March 9 (LMc),

Barren County, March 31 (MS) and at Madisonville on April 29 (JH). A few Broad-winged Hawks were present at CKWMA (TT), Upton (LR), Boone Cliffs and Big Bone Lick State Park in Boone County (LMc), Sadieville, Scott County (LMc) and Owsley Fork Lake (AR, TR).

Grouse through Cranes — An adult Ruffed Grouse with two young was seen in Bell County on May 29 (LR) and another with young in Harlan County on May 29 (DN). A Wild Turkey was seen in Mammoth Cave National Park and others were heard calling on May 21 (MS).

One to four Virginia Rails were present at SWMA during late April and early May (BPB *et al.*) and a good movement of Soras occurred there on May 6 with 30 birds present (BPB, D. Parker); two to four at Clark Fish Hatchery during May 6-26 (FB); and one in Hart County on May 7 (MS, S. Kistler, C. Middleton). A Purple Gallinule on Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County on May 14 was noteworthy (W. Schoettler, KC, H. Clay, m. ob.). Two Common Moorhens appeared at SWMA on April 24 (BPB, D. Ebel). There was a good movement of American Coots at LP on March 30 with 462 birds (JH). One lingered near the marina at Kentucky Lake on May 23 (S, DS, FS). The Sandhill Crane migration took place during the first week of March with 30 flying over Industrial Park on March 2 (FK, Sr.), heard over Shelbyville Road on March 7 (FK, Jr.) and 10 over Butler High School on March 9 (JM), all in Louisville; three flocks totaling 100 birds east of Shepherdsville, Bullitt County on March 3 (S. LeCompte *fide* BPB); 25 at Chaney Lake and 50 at McElroy Lake, Bowling Green (BPB).

Shorebirds — The shorebird migration was drawn out over a long period and the greatest movement occurred in late March. A single Lesser Yellowleg was at Chaney Lake, Warren County on March 5 (BPB) as were Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and two Pectoral Sandpipers in the Danville area (FL with W. Kemper). Approximately 350 Lesser Golden Plovers were observed in scattered flocks in Fulton County on March 26-27 (BPB). Three Semipalmated Plovers were present in western Henderson County on April 24, but 25 were there on May 6, also eight to 12 at BWMA and western Fulton County May 4-5 (BPB); and five to nine at Clark Fish Hatchery May 6 to 27 (FB). High counts of Greater Yellowlegs included 35 at SWMA on March 26 (LR); about 50 at Bondurant on April 28 (CP); and 35 in western Fulton County on May 5 (BPB, D. Parker). About 200 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen in scattered flocks in western Fulton County on March 26 (BPB); 30 at Bondurant on April 28 (CP) and 26 at Clark Fish Hatchery on May 19 (FB). Solitary Sandpipers arrived later than usual and in small numbers with the earliest at East Bend on April 2 (LMc). A single Willet was seen at the Falls of the Ohio on May 12 (BPB) and another, possibly the same bird, on May 20 (D. Parker). Spotted Sandpipers were still present on May 30 at East Bend (LMc) and at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB). Only two Upland Sandpipers were reported: one in Hickman County on April 26 (BPB, R. Cicerello) and one in the Danville area (W. Kemper *fide* FL). A single Ruddy Turnstone, rare in spring, was found on the Falls of the Ohio on May 20 (D. Parker) and observed there May 25-26, two birds there on May 24 (BPB). Few Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, but three were at SWMA on April 24 (BPB); present during May at Clark Fish Hatchery with a high of 24 on May 26 (FB); and the 60 peeps at the Falls of the Ohio

were "probably mostly semi's." (BPB). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded at Lake #9 on May 28 and three to five birds on Mississippi River sandbars in Carlisle County on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker). Over 400 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted in scattered flocks in western Fulton County on March 26 and 200 in scattered groups in western Henderson County on April 24 (BPB); smaller numbers (1 to 11) observed at Clark Fish Hatchery March 23-May 30 (FB). Two Dunlin in Henderson County on April 24 (BPB, D. Ebel) and one on Mitchell Lake on May 5 were the only ones reported (BPB, JTE, D. Parker). A Stilt Sandpiper along SR 94 at Mud Creek in western Fulton County was fairly early and was closely studied with yellowlegs on March 26 (BPB). A Short-billed Dowitcher was identified by its call notes on April 5 at SWMA, one to four in Ballard and Fulton counties on May 4-5 (BPB); and 12 on May 19 at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB). A good flight of 18 Common Snipe was observed at Hays Kennedy Park on March 25 (LR). An American Woodcock with two young was at CKWMA on April 10 (GR).

Gulls — An adult Laughing Gull appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on May 8 (BPB, A. Mullen) and another at Smithland Dam on May 27 (BPB, D. Parker). An adult Franklin's Gull was discovered at the Falls of the Ohio on the morning of April 20 (LR), also observed that evening and three were there on April 22, two on April 23 (BPB); and a sub-adult at Smithland Dam on May 28 (BPB, D. Parker). Eight Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on the Falls of the Ohio on March 29 (LR); three on April 20 and eight on May 6 at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB) and an adult in summer plumage on Kentucky Lake May 4 (BPB, D. Parker). Ring-billed Gulls were still present at various locations in May with about 200 or more at Kentucky and Barkley Dams on May 4 (BPB); about 20 adults and immatures at Kentucky Dam on May 26 (S, DS, FS); 250 at the Falls of the Ohio on April 22, but only 50 there on May 17 and up to 15 in late May until the gates were closed (BPB). Danville reported a good number this spring with 136 on March 5 (FL); and 100 at Clark Fish Hatchery on May 6, one on May 19 (FB). Approximately 10 Herring Gulls were still present at Kentucky Lake on May 4-5 (BPB) and one below the Dam on May 26 (S, DS); 16 adults arrived at the Falls of the Ohio on May 25 and remained at least two days (BPB); and one in the Danville area on March 5, where previous records are few (FL).

Terns — Five Caspian Terns returned to the Falls of the Ohio on April 14, nine on April 19 (LR), peaked at 17 birds on April 22 (BPB); two at Dam #53 on the Ohio River, Ballard County on May 4-5 (BPB); and nine near Hamlin (JTE). Three Caspian Terns were seen as far east as Clark Fish Hatchery on April 20 (FB). A Forster's Tern arrived near Hamlin, Calloway County on the early date of April 4 and provided Kentucky with an early date (JTE). Two Forster's reached the Falls of the Ohio by April 14 (LR) and 10-12 there on April 22 (BPB); numbers increased to 15 to 20 birds at Kentucky Lake and Dam #53 on May 4-5 and three present at Smithland on May 6 (BPB). Reports on the Least Tern included four birds at Smithland Dam, six at Lake #9 on May 28 and two to 12 at scattered points along the Mississippi River in Hickman and Carlisle counties on May 29 (BPB). Black Terns were reported from three locations: Falls of the Ohio, Dam #53 and Kentucky Lake above the Dam (BPB).

Cuckoos through Whip-poor-wills — Both cuckoos were generally late and scarce. A Black-billed Cuckoo was noted on three days during the first week of May on S. H. Farm, Louisville (BPB). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was first observed in Madison County on May 2 (TT) and at Madisonville, Hopkins County on May 3 (JH). A Common Barn-Owl was seen flying over Richmond on March 31 (GR). Great Horned Owls were reported at Creason Park and in Daviess County (BS, AP). Common Nighthawks were scarce and arrived later than normal (TT, DS, S); none were at the usual Danville sites (FL). Two Chuck-will's-widows were reported at Big Pond Sanctuary, April 4 (KC) and in northwest Hopkins County on April 14 (B. West *vide* JH). Whip-poor-wills arrived at CKWMA on April 4 (GR); in Hopkins County April 7 (B. West *vide* JH); and in Madison County on April 27 (TT).

Flycatchers through Wrens — Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen and heard at S. H. Farm on May 20 and one to two Alder Flycatchers were there on May 17 and 20 (BPB); another of the latter species was heard and seen in Calloway County on May 24 (S. DS, FS). A Willow Flycatcher in Madison County on May 2 tied our early date (TT); one in Petersburg May 19 (LMc); five at Clark Fish Hatchery on May 30 (FB) and a colony in Whitley County on May 29 (BM). Six Least Flycatchers were present on Big Black Mountain May 29 (LR, DN). A flock of 40 Horned Larks was observed on Covered Bridge Road, Oldham County, March 5 (FK, Jr.). Purple Martins were late in arriving and generally scarce. Two good movements of Tree Swallows were noted at Clark Fish Hatchery with approximately 400 present on March 30 and 300 on May 6 (FB); a late straggler was at the Marina at Kentucky Lake on May 26 (S, DS). Northern Rough-winged Swallows arrived later than normal with the earliest at Brandenburg, Meade County on April 5 (KC) and at CKWMA on April 10 (GR). The Northern Rough-winged Swallow migration at Clark Fish Hatchery peaked May 6 with 300 (FB) and Bank Swallows peaked there with 75 on May 6 (FB). There were few Bank Swallows, perhaps 20+, at Carroll County gravel pits on May 31 (S, FS). About 20 pairs of Cliff Swallows were at the North Fork of Rough River on May 21 (KC); at least 125 at Lake Barkley on May 23 (S, DS, FS) and 60 present at the Dam at Cave Run Lake May 19 (FB, L. Korman).

Three Fish Crows were heard in the vicinity of Bondurant and two to three near Sassafras Ridge, Fulton County on April 5 (CP); several along Obion Creek, Hickman County, the last week of April, singles in Ballard and Carlisle counties on May 4-5 (BPB); seven to eight in flight, with some calling, along the bluff of Columbus-Belmont State Park on May 10 and calls coming from other directions too (CP).

The finding of a Bewick's Wren singing near Jefferson County Forest on May 7 was noteworthy (DN). House Wrens arrived at CKWMA on April 13 (GR); although none were found on the breeding surveys in Casey and Pulaski counties, they appeared to have increased around farm houses in Boyle County (FL). A Marsh Wren was present at SWMA on April 24, two there on May 6 (BPB, D. Parker); and one in Hart County on May 7 (MS, S. Kistler, C. Middleton).

Kinglets through Vireos — A Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Union, Boone County on May 18 was a fairly late straggler (LMc). Eastern Bluebirds were quite common in Casey and Pulaski counties (FL) and "plenti-

ful" in Grayson County (KC). There was some evidence of Cedar Waxwing migration on March 26 when a flock of 20 arrived in the writer's yard and remained for the night. Late migrants were seen on May 24 when a flock of 17 was seen at Kenlake State Park (S, DS, FS). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Barren (MS), Grayson (KC) and Hickman (DS, FS) counties. A record of a Loggerhead Shrike in Edmonson County came too late to be included in the last issue (MS).

A White-eyed Vireo near Hamlin on April 4 was fairly early (JTE). There were only two reports of the Bell's Vireo. One was heard in rural Meade County on May 27 and was still there a week later in June; and one to two males heard on the WKMA on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker). A Philadelphia Vireo in a Danville yard on May 15 was the only one reported (FL).

Warblers — There was some difference of opinion on the warbler migration. One observer reported that "the movement was very light and sporadic" and another mentioned "no major warbler flights", but in general most observers felt that while most species were seen, numbers were low. Apparently there was a good movement of Northern Parula Warblers on April 7 in northwest Hopkins County where Bonnie West found about 20 near her home (*vide* JH). The Pine Warbler was heard singing at five locations in Calloway County on March 4 (JTE) and one in Daviess County Fish and Game Farm on March 15 (MP, AP). A Palm Warbler in Daviess County on March 19 was fairly early (MP). A Prothonotary Warbler arrived near Hamlin on April 4 (JTE). A Kentucky Warbler was seen in Madison County on the early date of April 3 (TT). Single Connecticut Warblers were reported at Joe Creason Park/Beargrass Nature Preserve on May 15 (BBC) and on S. H. Farm on May 17 (BPB). A Mourning Warbler was found at S. H. Farm on May 17 (BPB).

Grosbeaks through Finches — Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made their appearance at Big Pond Sanctuary on March 29 (KC). Blue Grosbeaks were reported at two locations in Hopkins County May 2 and 6 (JH), CKWMA on May 3 (GR) and in Whitley County on May 29 (BM). There were only small numbers of Dickcissels reported from Grayson (KC), Fulton (S) and Oldham (LR, S) counties, but good numbers in Boyle County (FL).

A few Vesper Sparrows were observed near Maceo, Daviess County in late March where they are seldom seen (AP, MP). Grasshopper Sparrows returned to CKWMA on April 13 (GR) and were observed in Calloway (JTE) and Hart counties on May 7 (MS *et al.*). Henslow's Sparrows were reported from Breckenridge, Grayson and Madison counties (BPB, KC, GR, respectively). The rare LeConte's Sparrow was flushed from dense grass in Henderson County on April 5 (BPB, D. Parker). Six Fox Sparrows were present in the Herbert Clay's yard, Grayson County on March 13 where most sightings are of one to two birds (KC). A White-throated Sparrow was still singing at Joe Creason Park on May 23 (JK). The Harris' Sparrow at Lexington on March 22 was an unexpected visitor (BA).

A Bobolink was reported in Menifee County on May 7 (BM); several flocks of 50-100 were found in Ballard County on May 4-5 (BPB, JTE, D. Parker). A Western Meadowlark was closely studied and heard singing

on March 26-27 in farmland of western Fulton County near Lake #9 (BPB). Another interesting record was that of a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Upton, April 27 (LR). An Orchard Oriole arrived early at Hamlin on March 28 and provided a new early record (JTE). The bird was seen for about one week. The Northern Oriole arrived on schedule at CKWMA on April 13 (GR) and was common in Meade County on April 28-30 (KOS). Approximately 75 Pine Siskins remained at a Morehead feeder from March 1 through 30. Numbers began to taper off in April, but 25 were still present on April 23 (FB). There seemed to be a good movement at Fern Creek, Jefferson County and at Versailles, Woodford County on April 18-20 (*vide* S); last sighting reported at Berea on May 6 (AR). Ten to 15 Evening Grosbeaks lingered at Morehead through March, numbers decreased in April, but two remained through April 23 (FB); no others reported, except for one bird over Bernheim Forest on April 9 (BPB).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), James W. Hancock (JH), Frank Krull, Sr. (FK, Sr.), Frank Krull (FK, Jr.), John Krull (JK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), J. Muntan (JM), Doxie Noonan (DN), B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Joyce Potter (JP), A. Powell (AP), Mildred Powell (MP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art Ricketts (AR), Tina Ricketts (TR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Helga Schutte (HS), Bernice Shannon (BS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Tim Towles (TT).

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241.

FIELD NOTES

SHORT-EARED OWLS (*Asio flammeus*)

On February 7, 1988, near a waterfowl refuge in extreme southern Ohio County on a reclaimed strip mine area consisting of rolling prairie-like habitat, we observed Short-eared Owls in flight. We observed the first of 14 owls that flew by approximately 20 minutes before sunset. We returned the next evening and counted 15. We could hear the owls cry as they hunted quite close to us. On February 13, accompanied by Jan and Jim Howard, we again observed 15 owls. On February 14 we were accompanied by Joyce Porter and Dora Lee St. Clair. While we were walking across the area three owls came up from the ground as a group and four more flushed from the ground a short distance further. On March 5, Jan Howard and other members of the Owensboro K.O.S. observed five owls. No owls were observed on return trips March 12 and 13.

A number of Marsh Hawks were observed on each visit in the same habitat and Rough-legged Hawks were also observed in the area.

Two years ago one Short-eared Owl had been observed approximately four miles further north in similar habitat but was not investigated further at that time.

—BRENDA AND TONY EADEN, 12784 U.S. 231, Utica, Kentucky 42376.

ANOTHER PURPLE GALLINULE

On May 14, 1988, William Schoettler, who was visiting us at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County, saw a strange looking bird walking around our pond. He called our attention to the bird and we readily identified it as a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*). The bright purplish-blue head, neck and underparts, yellow legs and feet and other characteristics were easily noted. The bird remained for several days.

The Gallinule was always on the sunny side of the pond during morning hours. At times the bird would walk on the tree limbs that were close to the water and turn leaves in search of insects. Many minnows, tadpoles and frogs are in the pond at this time of year.

The pond is approximately two acres in size surrounded by trees — pines, water willows, blackberry, birch, oak, maple, ash, cedar and dogwood — very dense edge. A bank about six feet high surrounds the pond hiding it from view. Deep woods are on two sides and open field and yard on the other two sides.

A "Bird Alert" was sent out and eight additional K.O.S. members had an opportunity to see this rare visitant. It was last observed on May 24.

As far as I know, Kentucky has only 13 records of the Purple Gallinule, but the species is known often to wander far from its normal range. This sighting of the Purple Gallinule is the fourteenth record for the state and the first for Grayson County.

—KATHRYN AND HERBERT L. CLAY, JR., 214 Sequoya, Louisville 40207.

NEWS AND VIEWS

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KENTUCKY IS READY!

Just a reminder that the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Anne L. Stamm and Brainard L. Palmer-Ball, Jr. is ready for purchase from the K.O.S. Please, make checks payable to the K.O.S. in the amount of \$6.00 (\$5.00 for K.O.S. members) plus 5% sales tax if you are a Kentucky resident. Orders should be sent to the Kentucky Ornithological Society, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241.

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at Kentucky Dam Village 30 September through October 2. Be sure to make your reservations for room accommodations early. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to enjoy good birding with good friends. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairperson, Virginia Kingsolver, Route 1, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311.

The Kentucky Warbler

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THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for this excellent photograph of an American Goldfinch.

RUFFED GROUSE DRUMMING SITES IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

ALEXIS M. TRIQUET, WILLIAM C. MCCOMB, AND JEFFERY D. SOLE

During a study of habitat use and mortality of Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) on the Cumberland Plateau, we identified features of habitat that were selected for drumming sites by male Ruffed Grouse. Previously, Hardy (1950) and Snyder (1973) described drumming sites in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia, respectively, but they did not quantify associated habitat characteristics. Taylor (1976) and Dearden and Durham (1978) examined physical characteristics and topographic locations of drumming logs in Tennessee; Harris (1981) measured the habitat at drumming sites in Georgia; and Thompson *et al.* (1987) studied the drumming, nesting, and brood habitat-types in Missouri. Only Hale *et al.* (1982) and Taylor (1976) have characterized both drumming sites and the vegetation characteristics that comprise suitable drumming habitat in the region.

Hale *et al.* (1982) compared 14 drumming sites in Georgia with an equal number of nearby unused sites. Drumming sites were found among a variety of overstory types and aspects throughout the range of elevations in the area. Physical structure of vegetation apparently determined habitat suitability more than species composition. Discriminant analysis showed that all vegetation layers contributed to suitability conditions, but that the most important characteristics were overhead concealment around the stage and visibility at about 0.5 m above ground level, conditions best provided by ericaceous shrub thickets. Taylor (1976), comparing 129 drumming logs in Tennessee to 37 unused logs, found that high midstory and understory densities characterized the used sites.

In this study, we recorded and compared 34 stage and habitat characteristics at ten drumming sites and seven unused sites in eastern Kentucky with univariate statistics and a new method of discriminant analysis. The objective was to identify those characteristics of stage and habitat that best distinguish occupied and unoccupied sites.

STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in the 5,880-ha Robinson Forest, Breathitt County, eastern Kentucky. Vegetation is second-growth, uneven-aged, mixed mesophytic forest on steep, well-drained slopes with winding creeks; ridge tops are dry (Overstreet 1984). Elevation ranges from 240 to 430 m above msl. Eighty percent of the forest is on slope gradients greater than 15%.

The vegetation in Robinson Forest has been described by Carpenter and Rumsey (1976). Ridges are dominated by shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), pitch pine (*P. rigida*), chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), and scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*). Slopes are dominated by hickories (*Carya* spp.),

white oak (*Q. alba*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and magnolias (*Magnolia* spp.). Along drainages, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) are most common. The shrubs are primarily mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.).

METHODS

Drumming sites were located from mid-March through May, 1986, and drumming stage and habitat characteristics measured in summer 1986. The log characteristics recorded were length, maximum diameter, angle with respect to slope, shape, decay class (Thomas 1979:80), and hardwood or softwood classification. Altitude of the log on the slope and drumming-stage height were also recorded.

Habitat measurements were made with techniques modified from Noon (1981). All overstory trees (≥ 5 cm dbh) on 0.04-ha circular plots centered on the drumming stages were recorded by species and 5-cm-dbh class. Beginning at plot center, 11-m transects were established in four directions: slope downward, slope upward, and in two directions perpendicular to the slope. To estimate the density of midstory stems, we walked each transect and counted the number of contacts with woody stems < 5 cm dbh and > 1.5 m tall. The number of understory woody stems < 5 cm dbh and < 1.5 m tall was recorded by species on one 1-m-radius subplot established on each transect around a pin 6 m from plot center. Five sightings equidistant along each transect were taken with an ocular sighting tube, and hits and misses on herbaceous vegetation were recorded. Slope and aspect were also recorded.

In order to identify the characteristics of log and habitat that contributed to use by grouse, seven unoccupied logs were subjected to the same survey, except for drumming-stage height, as occupied logs (Hale *et al.* 1982). Unused logs were selected from the same portion of the slope and within 100 m of drumming sites in order to minimize variation in slope portion and overstory type (Hale *et al.* 1982).

Stem densities of tree, shrub, and understory plant species were included in analyses only when relative densities or relative dominance (basal area or cover) of used and unused sites differed more than 50%. Discriminant function analysis (DFA) and *t*-tests identified those variables that separated used from unused sites. A subset of 13 variables that showed trends towards differentiating used and unused sites was used in DFA. The subset of variables were ranked on their ability to predict the degree of separation (*Z*) between groups (Rayens, personal communication). SAS PROC MATRIX (SAS Institute, Inc. 1982) was used to produce an eigenvalue that described separation between the two groups. Eigenvalues thus measured the discriminatory power. A new eigenvalue was calculated by dropping the variable least able to predict *Z*. The procedure was repeated until the single best predictor of *Z* remained. This type of DFA has no distributional context (Rayens, personal communication); therefore the data did not need to be normally distributed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Drumming activity began on March 16, 1986, and peaked in early April. Ten drumming sites were identified, all in mature forest. Three had an eastern exposure, and the other seven each occupied different exposures. Slopes (0° to 25° , $\bar{x} = 14^\circ$) at occupied sites were not as steep as slopes (12° to 32° , $\bar{x} = 22^\circ$) at unoccupied sites ($P < 0.10$), which suggests there may be a maximum incline above which grouse find conditions unsuitable (Taylor 1976, Hale *et al.* 1982). Three sites were on ridge-tops, four on the upper portion of the slope, and three at mid-slope. Hardy (1950), Stoll *et al.* (1979), Harris (1981), Taylor (1976) and Thompson *et al.* (1987) among others, have also reported a preference by grouse for drumming on upper slopes.

Seven drumming logs were hardwoods, two were softwoods, and one was unidentifiable. Nine were in the class-3 stage of decomposition, and one in class-2 (maximum decomposition = class-5, Thomas 1979). Only length differed significantly ($P < 0.1$) between used and unused logs, the former being longer (Table 1). Mean log length was 13.5 m (8.0-20.0 m) and mean diameter, 42.5 cm (28-63 cm). Log direction in relation to slope averaged 64.5° (40° - 90°), distance from butt to stage 4.6 m (0.5-11.5 m), and drumming-stage height 49 cm (38-64 cm). Taylor (1976) reported that similar-sized logs ($\bar{x} = 9.5$ m long, 33 cm in diameter, and 50 cm above ground) were used for drumming sites in Tennessee. Hardy (1950) reported that most drumming logs used in eastern Kentucky ($n = 19$) were 9-15 m long and 38-50 cm in diameter.

Vegetation on drumming sites — Grouse selected drumming sites under a variety of overstory types. Overstory structure was similar on used and unused sites ($P > 0.1$) (Table 1), and plant species composition did not differ significantly between them.

Midstory stem density on used sites was lower than that on unused sites only in the downslope direction ($P < 0.05$, Table 1). Both midstory and understory stem densities on the other three transects were equal to or greater than densities at unused sites (Table 1). This structure may give higher visibility in the downslope direction, greater concealment in other directions, and greater ease of escape if birds are flushed from a log. Visibility and concealment factors are important to drumming grouse (Stoll *et al.* 1979, Hale *et al.* 1982).

Discriminant Analysis — The 13 variables that were ranked according to their correlation with Z are shown in Table 2. The indicative results of the *t-test* aided in variable selection for DFA; however, discriminant analysis on such a limited data set must be interpreted with caution (Magnusson 1983). No habitat model was proposed in this exploratory study; DFA was used only to describe drumming site habitat in a multivariate context. Correlations ranged from 0.57 for the best predictor, midstory stem density on the downslope transect, to 0.24 for mean diameter of the log. Dropping the poor predictors ($r < 0.35$) did not affect misclassification, which did not exceed 10% for used sites and 14% for unused sites until all but three variables had been dropped (Table 2). Eigenvalues dropped sharply at the very start of the procedure, and continued to decrease significantly until seven variables were left (Fig. 1). Dropping additional variables resulted in a gradual decrease in eigenvalues (Fig. 1).

Table 1. Habitat and log characteristics of drumming sites used by Ruffed Grouse (N = 10) and of adjacent unused sites (N = 7) in Robinson Forest, Kentucky, March-July, 1986.

| Variables | Used site | | Unused site | |
|---|-----------|-----|-------------|------|
| | \bar{X} | SE | \bar{X} | SE |
| Slope (°) | 14.1* | 2.6 | 21.6* | 2.9 |
| No. overstory species | 11.4 | 0.6 | 10.6 | 1.2 |
| No. midstory species | 10.1 | 1.1 | 9.1 | 0.8 |
| No. understory species | 9.0 | 0.8 | 8.6 | 0.7 |
| Overstory basal area (m ² /ha) | 33.7 | 3.4 | 32.4 | 3.8 |
| Overstory density/0.04 ha | | | | |
| Deciduous stems | 63.9 | 7.0 | 63.3 | 9.4 |
| Evergreen stems | 9.2 | 4.0 | 6.6 | 4.1 |
| Dead stems | 2.8 | 0.9 | 3.9 | 1.3 |
| Chestnut oak (<i>Quercus prinus</i>) | 4.3 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.0 |
| Black oak (<i>Q. velutina</i>) | 4.6 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 0.7 |
| Midstory density/88 m ² | | | | |
| Deciduous stems | 49.3 | 5.4 | 46.3 | 10.9 |
| Evergreen stems | 4.7 | 2.1 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| Dead stems | 5.6 | 1.5 | 4.7 | 0.9 |
| Stems downslope | 11.7** | 1.2 | 18.6** | 2.7 |
| Stems upslope | 15.1 | 1.7 | 14.3 | 2.4 |
| Stems right | 17.1 | 1.1 | 14.7 | 2.0 |
| Stems left | 16.5 | 2.5 | 12.6 | 2.8 |
| Understory density/12 m ² | | | | |
| Deciduous stems | 58.1 | 7.7 | 51.4 | 9.3 |
| Evergreen stems | 1.9 | 1.1 | 7.1 | 4.8 |
| Dead stems | 0.3* | 0.3 | 1.9* | 0.8 |
| Greenbriar (<i>Smilax</i> spp.) | 8.5 | 2.2 | 15.7 | 4.9 |
| Chestnut oak | 3.6 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>) | 2.7 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Buffalo nut (<i>Pyrularia pubera</i>) | 2.7 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Stems downslope | 19.5 | 3.2 | 18.1 | 3.8 |
| Stems upslope | 24.4 | 2.8 | 21.9 | 3.9 |
| Stems right | 25.5 | 3.3 | 21.9 | 4.9 |
| Stems left | 16.8 | 2.8 | 16.6 | 1.6 |
| Ground cover, % | | | | |
| Evergreen herbs | 4.0 | 2.3 | 5.0 | 3.6 |
| Non-evergreen herbs | 27.0 | 4.0 | 26.4 | 5.2 |
| Dead wood | 3.0 | 1.1 | 4.3 | 2.0 |
| Log characteristics | | | | |
| Length (m) | 13.5* | 1.3 | 9.9* | 1.5 |
| Diameter (cm) | 42.5 | 3.3 | 38.0 | 2.9 |
| Direction in relation to slope (°) | 64.5 | 5.6 | 36.4 | 13.8 |

* Means differ at $P < 0.10$.

** Means differ at $P < 0.05$.

Table 2. Eigenvalues and misclassifications of selected variables for differentiating sites used ($N = 10$) and not used ($N = 7$) by Ruffed Grouse as drumming sites in Robinson Forest, Kentucky, March-July, 1986.

| Number of variables | Variable names | Misclassifications ^a | | Eigenvalue ($\div 1000$) ^b | Correlation with Z |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------|--|--------------------|
| | | Used | Unused | | |
| 13 | Log Diameter | 0 | 0 | 0.397 | 0.237 |
| 12 | Overstory chestnut oak density | 0 | 0 | 0.306 | 0.272 |
| 11 | Understory buffalo nut density | 0 | 0 | 0.128 | 0.310 |
| 10 | Overstory black oak density | 0 | 0 | 0.106 | 0.312 |
| 9 | Understory chestnut oak density | 0 | 0 | 0.089 | 0.317 |
| 8 | Understory evergreen stem density .. | 0 | 0 | 0.072 | 0.322 |
| 7 | Understory greenbriar density | 0 | 1 | 0.031 | 0.361 |
| 6 | Understory serviceberry density | 1 | 1 | 0.025 | 0.429 |
| 5 | Log length | 1 | 1 | 0.025 | 0.440 |
| 4 | Slope | 1 | 1 | 0.023 | 0.457 |
| 3 | Understory dead stem density | 1 | 2 | 0.012 | 0.481 |
| 2 | Log direction | 1 | 3 | 0.008 | 0.501 |
| 1 | Midstory stem density (downslope transect) | 1 | 3 | 0.007 | 0.569 |

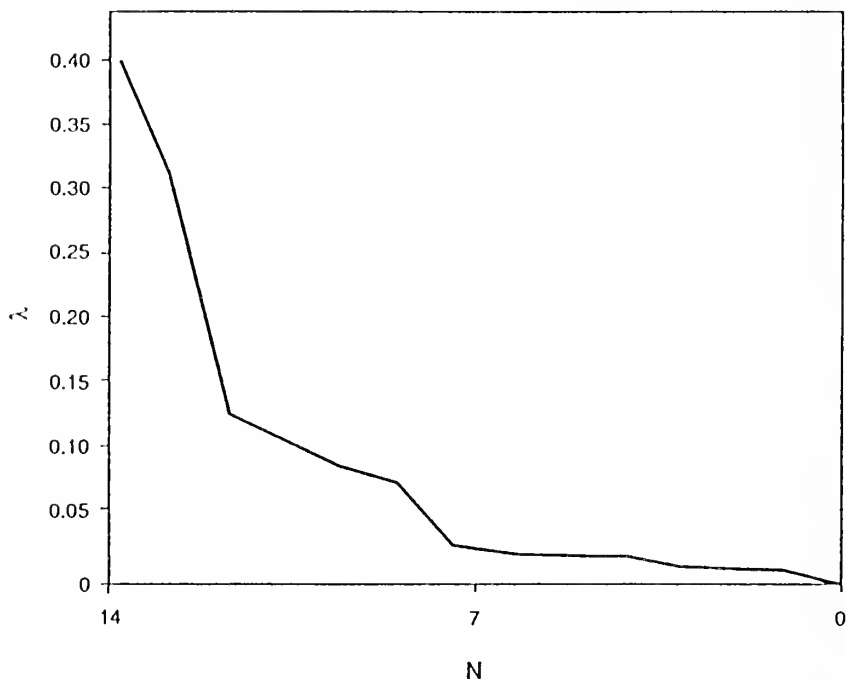
^a Number of used and unused sites classified incorrectly in discriminant function analysis with the given value and all below it.

^b A measure of the difference between sites derived with the indicated number of variables.

The dramatic decrease in eigenvalues prevented identification of a subset of variables suitable for differentiating used and unused sites and indicated that all 13 variables contributed to site suitability for drumming. Hale *et al.* (1982) also found that all vegetation layers affected drumming site selection in Georgia. Composition of the overstory and understory, structure of the understory and midstory, log size, and slope apparently contribute collectively to site selection.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Drumming sites identified in this study can be characterized as large, class-3 logs nearly parallel to the contour on gentle mid to upper slopes (11-17°). The areas were dominated by chestnut oak and black oak (*Q. velutina*) with evergreen shrubs and buffalo-nut (*Pyrularia pubera*) in the understory. Midstory stem density was sparse immediately downslope from the log. This characterization closely follows that for drumming logs provided by Hardy (1950) in eastern Kentucky, Stoll *et al.* (1979) in Ohio and Taylor (1976) in Tennessee, and that for vegetation provided by Hale *et al.* (1982) in Georgia.

Figure 1. Eigenvalues (λ) as a function of the number of variables (N).

In natural stands, drumming logs are produced by windthrow. When a mature tree (40- to 50-cm dbh) falls in a forest, a dense patch of understory and midstory vegetation develops as a result of sunlight penetration to the forest floor. Because windthrow of trees greater than 40 cm in dbh is unlikely in intensively managed forests, 1 or 2 such logs per hectare should be left after clearcutting in mid and upper slopes to provide suitable drumming stages for grouse. Vegetation structure and composition typical of drumming sites can be provided by patch clearcutting, but some provisions for drumming logs or alternative stages must be made if forests are to be managed for both wood products and Ruffed Grouse.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1988

ANNE L. STAMM

The months of June and July were dry and hot. Louisville experienced 19 days with temperatures of 90 to 101 degrees during June, and four consecutive days with three digit temperatures (100-103) in July. On June 22 the temperature topped 100 degrees at Paducah, breaking a 36-year old record of 98 degrees for that date, and Lexington hit 99 degrees, breaking a 65-year old record, according to the National Weather Service. Less than an inch of rain fell during June.

Drought conditions prevailed over much of the state, especially in western and central Kentucky. This situation caused farm ponds and creek beds to dry up and rivers to reach low levels.

Despite the intense heat, the summer reports contained an increasing amount of breeding activities of the birds of the state. Alan Barron and Michael Stinson did considerable field work for the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas and found some species of summering birds in locations where heretofore they were unknown. Fish Crows were found far north of their normal summer range. Willow Flycatchers and Henslow's Sparrows were observed in new locations. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. discovered a new Bank Swallow colony, Lee McNeely found two new Cliff Swallow colonies, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Wendell Haag discovered a nest of the Brown Creeper; a first for Kentucky. Another highlight of the season was the discovery of a substantial nesting population of Bell's Vireo, by Alan Barron. Below are the records of many observers.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; PWMA = Peal Wildlife Management Area; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; SHF = Surrey Hills Farm, Jefferson County.

Loons through Cormorants — A Common Loon lingered until "early June," on Carr's Fork, Knott County (DSp), and one remained on Kentucky Lake until June 23 (BPB). An American Pelican, a rare visitant here, was found on the Falls of the Ohio on June 25, by Kathryn Clay. She put out a "bird alert" and several observers were lucky enough to see the bird before it took flight. The only Double-crested Cormorant reported was the one perched on a snag in the Ohio River, ¼ mile upstream from Dam 52, July 31 (CP).

Hérons — A single Least Bittern was observed in the Cave Run Lake area, Rowan County, June 1 (DP). Personnel from the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission and the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources surveyed the Great Blue Heron colonies and found them active and "comparable in total nests to the past year or two." However, the small colony, on Malcolm Creek Bay of Kentucky Lake, appeared to be increasing (BPB). Also, eight Great Blue Herons were seen at PWMA, June 28 and \pm 50 at Lake #9, July 7, with about half immatures (CP); and present, in small numbers, throughout the season at East Bend, Boone County (LMc). Two nests (possibly three)

of Great Egrets were found again at Axe Lake Swamp on June 2 (BPB, W. Haag) and June 23 (BPB, D. Yancey). Other Great Egret records from June 11 through July 31 included the following: nine at PWMA (CP); singles at Lake Pewee (JH) and Long Creek Waterfowl Management Area (CP); one to five at the Falls of the Ohio (LR, DN, DP); and six at SWMA (BPB, D. Ebel). Also, \pm 75 gathered at Lake #9 on July 7 (CP). There were more reports of Little Blue Herons than usual. One was sighted at McAlpine Dam on the early date of June 1 (LR); an adult observed in the Black-crowned Night-Heronry, June 17, may have nested there again this year (BPB); an immature and three adults were seen on the Falls of the Ohio rock ledge, July 26 (LR). Other Little Blue Heron sightings included one at Luzcine Lake, Muhlenberg County June 21 (AB); four adults and five juveniles at PWMA, and two adults and two immatures at BWMA, June 28 (CP); On July 31 there were eight immature and three adult Little Blues in Carlisle County (CP), and 25 immatures and one adult at SWMA (BPB, D. Ebel). It appeared that there were three nests of Cattle Egrets in the rookery on Shippingport Island this year (BPB). The only other Cattle Egrets reported were the 18+ (not aged) in Ballard County, about six miles south of Wickcliffe, July 31, and an adult in breeding plumage at PWMA, June 28 (CP). A pair of Green-backed Herons nested at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC); eight were present at the Falls of the Ohio, July 31 (LR) and singles observed in Jefferson and Oldham counties during the period (S). Approximately 300 nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons were found in the colony on Shippingport Island, June 17 (BPB, B. Van Hoff); and the colony at Lake Barkley had decreased and only six nests were found June 23 (BPB, D. Yancy). An immature Black-crowned was noted at East Bend, June 18 (LMc) and two adults were present at a small lake in the Ten Broeck area, Jefferson County, June 6 but were gone the following day (S). The following nests of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found: two at Shepherdsville (KC, LR); one at Shippingport Island (BPB); and two on Obion Creek, Hickman County (BPB, R. Cicerello); no report on the Lexington colony was received. Other observations included single adults at PWMA on June 28 and in Muhlenberg County, in a swampy area, where the Illinois Central Railroad crosses SR 70, June 12 (CP); and three adults and four immatures at the Falls of the Ohio in late July (BPB).

Waterfowl — The only evidence of nesting waterfowl were Wood Ducks and Mallards. There were two broods of Wood Ducks in Owen County, on June 10, and an adult with nine young at East Bend, May 30 (LMc). Fifty plus were seen in the Mayfield Bottom swamp, Carlisle County, July 31 (CP); and five were present during the summer at BPS (KC). Mallards nested again at East Bend (LMc).

Hawks — Adult Ospreys were observed at a nest near Bayou, Livingston County, June 23 and 24 (BPB); and single birds were noted at the Falls of the Ohio, July 16 (KC), July 24 and August 1 (DP). Mississippi Kites were again observed in Fulton County in June and July; two locations in Ballard County and near Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County, July 9 and 31, respectively (CP). An adult Bald Eagle was flushed by accident from trees on the east end of Mitchell Lake, BWMA, July 31 (CP). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks was present at Surrey Hills Farm during July, but no nest or young were found (BPB). Atlas workers found single

birds in northeastern Kentucky during July in the following locations: southwest of Burtonville along the Fleming/Lewis County line; near Petersville in Lewis County; several miles south of Garrison in Lewis County; and south of Jeffersonville in Montgomery County (AB, MS). During the month of May an active nest of Cooper's Hawks was found, near Crittenden, Grant County (K. Caminiti *vide* LMc). There were more sightings of Cooper's Hawks this summer than usual and single birds were found in the following counties: Breckinridge, Grayson (KC), Simpson (BPB), Lewis (MS), and Magoffin (AB). Also, a single bird was seen at Spurlington, Taylor County (BPB) and at My Old Kentucky Home State Park, Nelson County (AB). On July 31 an adult and two juvenile Red-shouldered Hawks were observed at BWMA (CP). Strangely enough, the only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one over Butler Lake at BWMA, July 31 (CP). A Krider's Hawk, found in Oldham County, along Hwy. 42, July 31, was unusual, particularly for that time of year (DN). Two American Kestrels and one juvenile were seen in the vicinity of New Providence, Calloway County, July 25 (CP).

Shorebirds — Shorebird habitat was limited this summer due to the very dry weather. Numbers were generally low and some species arrived later than normal. A Semipalmated Plover was seen at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs arrived on schedule at Mitchell Lake, July 9 (CP). Greater Yellowlegs were first recorded at the Falls of the Ohio on July 21 (LR, BPB), and at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). Six Lesser Yellowlegs reached the Falls of the Ohio on July 16 (DN) and five at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). A Solitary Sandpiper in breeding plumage, near Dublin, Graves County June 2, was a late spring migrant (CP). Fall Solitary Sandpipers began returning to two locations in Mason County by July 14 (AB). A Willet was discovered at the Falls of the Ohio on July 15-19 (LR); a report of one there July 21, possibly pertained to the same bird (BPB). A Spotted Sandpiper was noted at East Bend throughout June, but no evidence of nesting was observed (LMc); a juvenile was observed at the Falls of the Ohio on July 26 and at least 12 birds were there in "late July" (BPB). A Sanderling was noted at the Falls of the Ohio, July 26 (DP, BPB, AB) and again on August 1 (DP). There were few reports of the Semipalmated Sandpiper: they were present at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21-24 (DP, JK, BPB), with a high count of 26 on July 21 (DP); and one at BWMA on July 31 (CP). Two Western Sandpipers were recorded at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21 (BPB, DP); one there July 23 (BPB). The two Least Sandpipers at Louisville, June 1, were late spring migrants (AB). Fall Least Sandpipers returned to BWMA July 9 (CP) and to the Falls of the Ohio on July 21, with a high there of 25 (BPB); and five were noted at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). The rare White-rumped Sandpiper was present at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21 (DP) and 10-50 Pectoral Sandpipers were there between July 23-26 (JK, BPB). Other Pectoral sightings included one at Lentz's Pond, Jefferson County, July 30 (LR); one at BWMA July 31 (CP); and six at SWMA, July 30 (BPB). The Stilt Sandpiper at the Falls of the Ohio, July 24, was the only one reported (DP). Two to three Short-billed Dowitchers were recorded at the Falls of the Ohio, July 23 and 26 (BPB). The four Dowitcher *spp.* at BWMA, July 9 (CP), and the one below McAlpine Dam, July 12 (LR) were probably Short-billed Dowitchers.

Gulls — The Ring-billed Gull is normally rare here in summer, although in recent years a number have been showing up in June. The following Ring-billed Gulls were reported: 43 at Kentucky Lake above the Dam, June 23 (BPB), one at Newburgh Dam in Henderson County, July 31 (BPB, D. Ebel); three at the Falls of the Ohio, June 25 (S, FS); two there June 28 (DN), and one or two remained through July (BPB). Also, two Herring Gulls were still present at the latter location June 1 (LR); one immature there July 28 (DN), and a third-year bird at Kentucky Lake above the Dam, June 23 (BPB). Single Caspian Terns appeared at the Falls of the Ohio, June 25 (LR) and July 21 (DP, BPB); and three there August 1 (DP). The only Common Tern reported was one at Louisville on the Ohio River, July 21 (DP). Also, a Forster's Tern was at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21 (BPB, DP); and two at Newburgh Dam, July 31 (BPB, D. Ebel). A few Least Terns were present at the Smithland Dam in June, and a "stable number" on the Mississippi River (BPB). An adult and a first-year Black Tern were seen flying over the Least Tern colony on the Mississippi River, Carlisle County, June 3 (BPB, W. Haag).

Doves through Woodpeckers — Mourning Doves had a good year. A Black-billed Cuckoo was heard in Taylor County on June 26 (BPB); also observed in Greenup County in July (AB, MS). Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared to be down in numbers (CP) and were seldom heard in the Louisville area (S). A Great Horned Owl nest in Burlington, Boone County, fledged one young, one egg failed to hatch (LMc); three young were observed at Brigadoon, Barren County (RS). Two Chuck-will's-widows were heard at BPS and probably nested there (KC). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fed regularly at feeding stations in Grayson, Woodford, Hopkins and Jefferson counties (KC, SH, JH, KC, respectively), but no nests were found. A nest, however, was found along Middle Creek, Boone County, June 25. Incubation was noted on July 11 and young in the nest on July 24 (LMc). Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed nesting at two locations in Jefferson County (JK, S). During the month of June the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was discovered at four sites in the southern Daniel Boone National Forest (Dennis Daniel, U.S. Forest Service *vide* BPB). A nest of Pileated Woodpeckers, with young, was found at the Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve, May 29 (LMc).

Flycatchers through Creepers — There were more reports of the Willow Flycatcher this summer than usual and singing birds were found in new locations. These records are probably due to more intensive field work, rather than an increase in the nesting population. During June singing birds were heard in Meade, Trimble and Oldham counties (BPB). Also, Willow Flycatchers were heard singing during the month of July along the Bath/Rowan County line, and in Fleming, Mason, Morgan and Greenup counties in eastern Kentucky (AB, MS). A number of Eastern Phoebe nests were reported: one at Natural Bridge State Park, Powell County; one at Napoleon in Gallatin County; at Union, and at Big Bone State Park, in Boone County (LMc). A singing Horned Lark was heard near New Liberty in Owen County, June 11, where records are few (LMc). The large colony of Purple Martins in Ballard County was reduced to about 20 pairs as compared to at least 75 pairs in 1984 (S, DS, FS); also a decrease in the Seneca Park, Louisville colony to two or three pairs while a large post-breeding concentration consisted of 4000 at Shippingport

Island, July 16 (DN). Small numbers of Tree Swallows were seen at Axe Lake Swamp on June 2 (BPB), and at East Bend, June 18 (LMc); two broods were raised near Crittenden, Grant County (K. Caminiti *vide* LMc). The Bank Swallow colonies near Petersburg and Belleview in Boone County, were again successful (LMc); one colony in Carroll County had 40-50 burrows and the other was inactive (S, FS). A new Bank Swallow colony found in Meade County, April 30 (BM), contained 75 active nesting burrows in late May (BPB). Fair numbers of Cliff Swallows nested in Kentucky this year. The colony at Barkley Dam had some 140+ nests (S, DS, FS); some 40 active nests in the Gunpowder colony, Boone County, and 35 nests in the Markland Dam colony (LMc); two new colonies under bridges in Gallatin County, with 40 and 60 nests, respectively (LMc); one near Hillsboro in Fleming County (MS); and nesting observed on the bridge over Rough River, Grayson/Breckinridge County line (BPB).

A nest of American Crows was discovered at Burlington, where two young were successfully fledged on June 9 (LMc). The Fish Crow has been known to be an uncommon summer resident along the Mississippi River and lower Ohio River as far upstream as Paducah. This summer there was a dramatic move northward. An adult bird was seen and heard near Henderson, just east of the bridge, June 16 (AB); several heard calling on a sandbar upstream from the Shawneetown Bridge, July 29 (R. Cicerello, W. Haag *vide* BPB). Mike Stinson reported two adults along Green River at the ferry site, near Pleasant Valley, along the Henderson/McLean County line, June 24. Other birds heard farther south included one at Smithland Dam, June 24 (BPB) and several in Mayfield Bottom, Carlisle County (CP). Brown Creepers were found nesting at the Axe Lake Swamp on June 2 and represents the first breeding record for the state (BPB, W. Haag).

Wrens through Shrikes — Bewick's Wrens were observed on June 11 at two locations in Grant County and at one location in Owen County. A singing bird was still present on July 2 at one of the Grant County locations (LMc), and another heard near Hensley, Breckinridge County, June 6 (AB). A singing male Sedge Wren was observed near Tar Fork, Breckinridge County, June 6 (AB); and seven territorial males singing along Hardy and Muddy Sloughs on SWMA, July 31 (BPB, D. Ebel). Cedar Waxwings had a good year and were present during the period in much of the state (m.ob.). Two immature Loggerhead Shrikes were noted at Skylight, Oldham County, July 23 (LR); and an adult with two young in Nelson County, July 23 (BM) were the only nesting observations reported.

Vireo, Warblers — Quite a surprise was the sighting of at least 10 singing male Bell's Vireos scattered about the Breckinridge Job Corps center near Waverly, Union County, June 13; some females present too (AB); 12 heard singing in Union County, June 19 (BM), and one bird present west of Ekron, Meade County, in "early June" (AB, MS). A nest of Yellow-throated Vireos with young birds, was found at General Butler State Park, Carroll County, May 26 (LMc). A nest of Yellow Warblers was reported from the Hunting Creek Golf Course, Prospect, Jefferson County, mid-June (JK). A Blue-winged Warbler was seen feeding young out of the nest, near Middle Creek, June 25 (LMc); adult birds and Golden-winged were also noted in Lawrence County, July 15 (AB). A

male Brewster's Warbler was heard singing in the same location, July 15 (AB). Fledged young Pine Warblers were noted in Nelson County, June 28 (AB) and also a singing bird recorded at Mammoth Cave National Park, July 31 (RS). Swainson's Warblers were on territory, at least in three locations in June, with a family group also observed in July in the Red River Gorge vicinity (T. Towles, M. Medley *vide* BPB). An Ovenbird nest was under construction, May 16, at the Boone County Nature Preserves (LMc). Nest building of the Kentucky Warbler was noted at Natural Bridge State Park, May 14 (LMc). Parent birds were observed feeding fledged Common Yellowthroats at Middle Creek, June 25 (LMc).

Tanager through Finches — The two Scarlet Tanagers heard singing, June 18 in Hopkins County, probably nested there (JH). There were more reports on the Blue Grosbeak than usual. On the Joy Breeding Bird Survey Route in Livingston County, June 24, a total of 20 birds was tallied at 18 stops (BPB). Blue Grosbeaks were recorded during June and July in the following counties: Hopkins (JH), Bullitt (DP), Nelson (several on territory — BM), Owen (LMc), Bath, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Boyd, Mason, Morgan, Rowan, Lewis and Greenup (AB, M. Stinson *vide* BPB). A number of these records are due to the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas work. Two male Bachman's Sparrows were again present in Calloway County during the period (CP). The rare Lark Sparrow was encountered, near Corner's, Breckinridge County, June 6 (AB, M. Stinson). Two Savannah Sparrows (territorial males) were observed in a pasture approximately three miles south of Ballardsville, Oldham County on June 16 (BPB, D. Ebel); and a pair, one "carried food and was agitated," about one mile Northeast of Tollesboro, Lewis County, July 13 (AB). This sighting indicates the first known breeding record for Lewis County. Grasshopper Sparrows were found during June and July at several locations in Owen County (LMc). There were a number of interesting records of Henslow's Sparrows this summer: at least four singing males, near Orangeburg, Mason County, July 13 (AB); two pairs, 2½ miles north of West Liberty, along Elk Fork, Morgan County, July 23 (AB); one singing, near Grayson Springs, Grayson County, and two heard, approximately two miles southeast of Clarkson, Grayson County, June 10 (BPB, AB); also present in Breckinridge County in June (AB, M. Stinson); and two to three males singing north of Petersville, Lewis County, in mid-July (AB, M. Stinson). The Song Sparrow was found to be "almost common" in Mayfield Bottoms, Carlisle County (CP); also recorded at six locations in the Madisonville area (JH), but still not common at the Elk Creek Bridge vicinity (JH). Two male Bobolinks were noted southwest of Eminence, Shelby County on June 16 and may have nested there (BPB); also observed in June in Bourbon County (M. Flynn *vide* BPB). The sighting of a male Dark-eyed Junco southwest of Willard, Carter County, July 12 (AB) was most unusual, and may have been a post-breeding stray. There were two reports of nesting Orchard Orioles: one in Henry County, and one in Boone County (LMc). Also, a pair of Northern Orioles raised young at BPS (KC). House Finches had a good year, with breeding observed in the following locations: Burlington (several locations — LMc); South Louisville, several nests (WJ); Ten Broeck area, young out of nest (S). Summer birds were seen in the following locations: in Ashland and Flatwoods, Boyd County; near Salem in Morgan County; near Counts Crossroads in Carter County; in Greenup, Greenup County; in Maysville, Mason County; in Mount Sterling, Montgomery County; and in Lewis County (AB). Some of the above information represents new summer county records.

Contributors — Alan Barron (AB); Kathryn Clay (KC); James W. Hancock (JH); Smith Hundley (SH); Wilbur Jackson (WJ); John Krull (JK); Lee McNeely (LMc); Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM); Doxie Noonan (DN); Donald Parker (DP); Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB); Clell Peterson (CP); Lene Rauth (LR); Russell Starr (RS); Anne L. Stamm (S); F. W. Stamm (FS); Michael Stinson (MS); Donald Summerfield (DS).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FALL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 2, 1988

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 65th annual Fall Meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on September 30 - October 2, 1988.

Jim Williams welcomed members and guests to the Friday evening session, held in the lodge meeting room. Virginia Kingsolver outlined the program and introduced the evening's speakers. Clell Peterson presented a brief history of the Land Between the Lakes area. Ed Ray updated the Bald Eagle and Osprey hacking programs in the LBL. Blaine Ferrell and Jeff Jones presented information on nesting birds at strip mining pits in Muehlenberg County. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. concluded the program with a report on the first documented nesting of Brown Creepers in Kentucky and slides of the Pomarine Jaeger taken in 1987 at Kentucky Dam. Times and sites of Saturday morning field trips were reviewed.

Steady rain greeted birders on Saturday morning, who participated on field trips to Smithland Dam and various areas of the Land Between the Lakes.

The Board of Directors met in the lodge at 3:30 P.M.

The Saturday evening program was held in the lodge meeting room beginning at 7:30 P.M. Dr. Steve White was the evening speaker, providing an interesting program on Bald Eagle populations in the lower Ohio River valley. Donald Summerfield made members aware of the availability of the "Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky" and thanked the authors for their work on this project. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year which were approved: President — Jim Williams, Vice President — Virginia Kingsolver, Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer — John Krull, Recording Secretary — Lee McNeely, and new Councillors — Gary Ritchison and Jeff Jones.

Additional birds seen on Sunday brought the weekend total to 108 species. Total registrations for the Fall Meeting were 50.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

BIRDS RECORDED ON FIELD TRIPS DURING THE FALL MEETING AT KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE STATE PARK

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 1988

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk*, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sora*, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull*, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern*, Forester's Tern*, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark*, Tree Swallow*, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow*, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler*, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager*, Scarlet Tanager*, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch*, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. Those species marked by an asterisk were observed on Sunday. The species total for the meeting was 108.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING, 1988

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes

BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely, Tom Stevens

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

ELIZABETHTOWN: Betty Boone, Susan Cruse, Joan Noel

FRANKFORT: Howard Jones

HAZARD: Donnie Spencer

LEXINGTON: Robert Morris, Andrew Uterhart, Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Kathryn Clay, John Krull, Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr., Dr. Robert Noonan, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Don Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Frances Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Don Summerfield, Virginia Osborn, Julia Woolridge

MOREHEAD: Dr. Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Happy Chambers, Sally Leedom, Michael Miller, Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Mary Lydia Greenwell, Neal Haydon, Janet Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Powell, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson

PADUCAH: Mrs. Damon Cadell

STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson

DYERSBURG, TN: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett

JEFFERSONVILLE, IN: Lene Rauth

REPORT OF TREASURER FISCAL YEAR 1987-88

GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance, September 8, 1987
(1st National of Louisville)

\$2,450.16

Receipts

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Membership Dues | \$2,365.00 | |
| Interest Income: | | |
| Endowment Fund | 410.02 | |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 128.51 | |
| Gift: (Wm. Rowe in memory of Joe Croft) | 100.00 | |
| Meetings | 1,132.26 | |
| Sale of Checklists, Patches, etc. | 67.52 | |
| Horner book donation | 595.25 | |
| Transfer from Gordon Wilson (Annotated Checklist) | 1,372.00 | |
| Sale of Annotated Checklists | 716.20 | 6,886.76 |
| | | \$9,336.92 |

Disbursements

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| Printing Costs (KY Warbler — 5 Issues) | \$2,272.69 | |
| Envelopes | 148.75 | |
| Meetings | 978.59 | |
| Postage | 354.62 | |
| Transfer of (2) Life Membership (Endowment) | 150.00 | |
| Transfer of Interest to Gordon Wilson | 128.51 | |
| Transfer of Checklist to Gordon Wilson | 716.20 | |
| Bank Charge | 3.15 | |
| Corporation Filing Fee | 4.00 | |
| Printing of Annotated Checklist | 1,372.00 | |
| Supplies | 53.70 | |
| Safe Deposit Box Rental | 65.00 | 6,247.21 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Bank Balance, September 28, 1988 | | \$3,089.71 |
| | | <hr/> |

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|---|------------|
| Balance in Savings (Future Federal), September 1, 1987 | \$1,984.12 |
|---|------------|

Certificates of Deposit:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 2 @ \$1,000.00 | Great Financial Federal | 2,000.00 |
| 1 @ 1,500.00 | Future Federal | 1,500.00 |
| 1 @ 1,000.00 | Future Federal | 1,000.00 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$6,454.12 |

Receipts:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Interest on CD's | 410.02 | |
| Interest on Savings | 143.05 | |
| Life Membership (2) | 150.00 | 703.07 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 7,187.19 |

Disbursements:

| | | |
|---|--------|------------|
| Transfer on CD Interest to General Fund | 410.02 | |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 6,777.17 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Balance in Fund, September 29, 1988 | | |
| CD's (4) | | \$4,500.00 |
| Balance in Savings, September 29, 1988 | | 2,277.17 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 6,777.17 |
| | | <hr/> |

GORDON WILSON FUND

| | | |
|--|--------|-------------------|
| Balance in Savings, September 1, 1987 | | \$1,623.40 |
| Certificates of Deposit | | |
| 2 @ \$1,000.00 Great Financial Federal | | 2,000.00 |
| | | <u> </u> |
| | | \$3,623.40 |
| Receipts: | | |
| Interest on Savings | 92.84 | |
| Interest on CD's | 128.51 | |
| Sale of Annotated Checklists | 716.20 | 937.55 |
| | | <u> </u> |
| | | \$4,560.95 |
| Disbursements: | | |
| Printing Cost of Annotated Checklists | | 1,372.00 |
| | | <u> </u> |
| | | \$3,188.95 |
| | | <u> </u> |
| Balance in Fund, September 29, 1988 | | |
| CD's (2) | | 2,000.00 |
| Balance in Savings, September 29, 1988 | | 1,188.95 |
| | | <u> </u> |
| | | \$3,188.95 |
| | | <u> </u> |

NET WORTH

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Balance in General Fund, September 29, 1988 | \$3,089.71 |
| Balance in Endowment, September 29, 1988 | \$6,777.17 |
| Balance in Gordon Wilson Fund | \$3,188.95 |
| | <u> </u> |
| | \$13,055.83 |
| | <u> </u> |
| | <u> </u> |

— John Krull, Treasurer

FIELD NOTES

OBSERVATIONS OF A

POLYGYNOUS WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) FAMILY

THROUGH A BREEDING SEASON IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY

During 1987, the author had the opportunity to observe an isolated Wood Duck clan (1 male, 2 females, and 24 ducklings) on a small stream in Bourbon County, in the central Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Observations were made on a regular basis throughout the breeding season. The presence of Wood Ducks on this small, seasonally-running stream was a surprise—the stream is very near a rural state highway and is surrounded by pasture-land, with only scattered trees along its banks; the isolation and openness of this nesting area, however, did favor the making of these observations. Only when the ducklings were able to make the journey of a mile downstream to the junction of this stream with the much larger Hinkston Creek (which has well-wooded banks and a good Wood Duck population) could they reach any other suitable habitat. Only the most pertinent observations are reported.

A Wood Duck pair was first seen for the year in this area on May 5. They were swimming closely together on the creek, near the only nest-tree to be found in the vicinity: a sycamore on the creek bank with a cavity some 20 feet above the water. On May 12, the duck (female #1) was seen swimming beneath this tree with many newly-hatched ducklings in tow. The drake was not nearby, but was sighted that day swimming alone in a small, half-acre impoundment a quarter-mile downstream. This impoundment ("the pond") is also adjacent to the road, from which practically all its shore may be viewed, there being only a little brushy cover at its upper end.

On May 19, female #1 had taken her brood downstream to the pond, where they could be easily counted; the observer determined that there were 16 ducklings. On this date the drake was on the far end of the pond, but was ignoring female #1 and her young. The drake was swimming closely (in bonded fashion) with a new duck (female #2). Although not confirmed absolutely, the individual markings of this drake lead to a confident assertion that the same male Wood Duck was involved in all of these observations. On May 26, female #1 and her rapidly-growing brood were on the pond, but the drake was nowhere to be seen. (Nor was he seen at any later time, perhaps having flown down to Hinkston Creek, soon to begin molting to eclipse plumage.) Female #2 had also disappeared from view on this date.

On June 2, female #1—with her large brood—was at one end of the pond, and female #2 had returned to the other end of the pond with seven newly-hatched ducklings. Then and later, the two ducks seemed to tolerate each other well but kept careful watch on their own broods, which were at all times kept apart from each other. On June 5, female #1 with 15 ducklings and female #2 with seven ducklings still shared the pond, though it was first noted on this date that some of the larger ducklings were venturing farther from their mother (female #1) and were responding less to her anxious calls.

By July 6, female #2 was still managing to keep her six surviving ducklings in tow, but the older ducklings of family #1 were scattered all about the pond, independently or in small groups. By July 14, female #1 had abandoned the pond and only seven of her ducklings, now almost fully grown, remained there. On this date female #2 remained, but her ducklings were now scattered all about the pond.

At July's end, all the Wood Ducks — adults and ducklings — had left the pond, but some interesting points may be gleaned from their having been observed:

(1) The Wood Duck drake appears to have mated successfully with two females whose nestlings left their nests about three weeks apart. Only one nesting cavity in the area was located, and two Wood Duck females have been known to incubate simultaneously in the same nest (Fuller and Bolen, *Wilson Bull.* 74:94-95, 1963), though this was not observed here. Indeed, in one instance in Iowa (Bent, *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*, p. 162, 1923), a nest was found which contained 31 Wood Duck eggs and five Hooded Merganser eggs; thus nest-sharing has extended even to another species. Since the incubation of Wood Duck eggs require 28-30 days (Bent, *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*, p. 162, 1923), positing the successive use of this nest would require the presence of two differently-aged egg-groups in the same nest, which does not seem likely. Perhaps there was an undiscovered second nest-cavity in the area; future observations may settle this point.

(2) In both instances, the drake was completely dissociated from the female and her young from the time they left the nest; indeed, he left the area entirely once his second set of offspring had hatched, the females assuming entire responsibility for the care of their young.

(3) Dispersal of young ducklings in both instances began about four weeks after their hatching (when the boldest began straying from their mother's entourage) and was completed by eight weeks after hatching, when the ducklings were completely independent in the absence of their mothers.

(4) Survival of the young ducklings was remarkably good in these observations. As late as 4 weeks after hatching, when dispersal was beginning (the last time an accurate count of the young could be made), 15 of the original 16 of brood #1 were alive and well, as were six of brood #2's original seven. They survived despite the known presence of predators (many large turtles, including snappers — *Chelydra serpentina*, were seen about the pond all summer) and the lack of protective cover in the area. Such breeding success may explain why the Wood Duck is the most numerous breeding duck in the eastern United States (Farrand, *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, p. 152), and gives much encouragement to hope for survival of this beautiful and remarkable avian species into the future, even in an environment so altered by human use as the Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

TAME SANDHILL CRANE VISITS IN KNOTT COUNTY

In June of 1988 a Sandhill Crane, age and sex unknown, landed on a farm in northern Knott County. The farmer herded the bird into an outbuilding and notified the Corps of Engineers. Ranger Cordell Gayheart picked up the bird, then moulting, and took it to a marshy area in the Littcarr Recreation Area on Carrs Fork Lake in the southern part of the county. The bird has a transmitter on its left leg and a band on the right. Ranger Gayheart has sent the band number off but has yet heard nothing as to how the bird came to be banded. The antenna on the transmitter has been damaged since the bird's arrival.

The bird does sometimes fly about the narrow Carrs Fork Lake, but it is as tame as a chicken with visitors to the picnic spot, some of whom make special trips to bring food — chiefly bread — to the bird. Its behavior leads Ranger Gayheart to believe that it was perhaps raised in captivity and released into the wild. He has not seen any Sandhill Cranes in Knott County before, even in flight.

As of October 8, the bird is still where it has been all summer and residents of the area wonder "what happens now?"

—MARQUITA GILLENWATER, P.O. Box 526, Glasgow, KY 42141.

NEWS AND VIEWS

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KENTUCKY IS READY

Just a reminder that the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Anne L. Stamm and Brainard L. Palmer-Ball, Jr. is ready for purchase from the K.O.S. Please, make checks payable to the K.O.S. in the amount of \$6.00 (5.00 for K.O.S. members) plus 5% sales tax if you are a Kentucky resident. Orders should be sent to the Kentucky Ornithological Society, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241.

CORRECTION

In the field note on Short-eared Owls in the August 1988 issue of *The Kentucky Warbler*, 17 owls were observed on February 14, not seven.

MIDWINTER BIRD COUNTS

Those members who have participated in the midwinter bird counts in the past should already have received your count forms. The counts this year should be conducted between December 16 and January 3. If you are interested in conducting a count and would like additional information, please contact the editor.



The Kentucky Warbler

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ALBERT R. MANN
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ITHACA, N.Y. 14853

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

THE COVER

We thank Herbert L. Clay, Jr. for the photograph of the Short-eared Owl taken in southern Ohio County.

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1988

ANNE L. STAMM

The weather of the fall season of 1988 was similar throughout the state: very dry and unusually hot, particularly in August. Temperatures soared and on August 16 Paducah tied its record with 102 degrees, Lexington set a record of 98 degrees, Owensboro recorded 101 and Louisville hit 100 breaking the previous record of 98 degrees. Rainfall finally came in November and it was the first time in 15 months that the rainfall was above normal.

The warm autumn delayed migration for some species while others arrived earlier than usual. Heavy duck flights did not occur. The cormorant migration was one of the best in recent years. Hawk flights were not observed. And the shorebird migration was limited due to some habitat loss. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were virtually absent and Evening Grosbeaks were not reported. Nevertheless, despite the drought, it was a rather eventful season.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area; Swan WMA = Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons were widespread and reported from 10 locations by nine observers. Except for the three singles reported at Cornith Lake, August 4-5, Kentucky Lake and Smithland Dam, Livingston County on August 13 and 14, respectively, they were primarily found from September 24-November 27, with maximum numbers between two and 12. Pied-billed Grebes were more widely distributed this fall, but numbers were not large. High counts included: 52 at Lake Pewee (LR), 25 to 50 in the cove near Hamlin, Calloway County (JTE), 17 at Louisville (DS), 10 at Honker Lake (LBL area — CM), 10 near Beaver Dam, Ohio County (KC, T. and B. Eaden), nine at Long Run County Park (S, FS), and smaller numbers at Dix Dam, Mercer County (FL, WK), and Hematite Lake (LBL area — CP). Fair numbers of Horned Grebes arrived in mid-November with 85 at Louisville, November 20; 93 at Kentucky Lake, November 13 and 68 at Lake Barkley on the same date (BPB); and up to 50 at Hamlin, December 6 (JTE). Single birds were reported at Dix Dam, November 20 (FL, WK) and Cave Run Lake on November 5 (FB). Two American Pelicans were present at Lake Cumberland, near the mouth of Wolf Creek, October 25 (*vide* L. Andrews). Migration of the Double-crested Cormorant was more evident than in recent years. Thirteen observers reported the species from 17 locations. High counts were as follows: 50 at Smithland Dam, October 1 and 2 (KOS), 36 near Wickliffe, Ballard County, October 12 (CP), 90 at Barkley Lake, October 19 (BPB, D. Yancey, L. Andrews), 46 at Hamlin in late October through November (JTE), 57 at the Falls of the Ohio, October 25 (DP), 25 along Shippingport Island October 19 (LR), 17 at Hematite Lake October 12 (CP), and 12 at Honker Lake November 8 (CM). Sightings at other locations included: eight birds on Taylorsville Lake, Anderson County (K. Prather *vide* BPB); six in flight over I 64 at Louisville (JC); and singles in the following counties: Boone, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Muhlenburg, Pulaski, Rowan and Union.

Bitterns through Herons — Single American Bitterns were reported: one at SWMA on September 25 (BPB *et al.*); and one in Daviess County (no date given — M. Brown *vide* AP). A Least Bittern was still present at MCFH on September 4 (DP, BPB). Great Blue Herons were widespread all across the state. In western Kentucky the birds were scattered, due no doubt to the high water maintained in Barkley and Kentucky Lakes and low water levels in the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Thus, there were no concentrations of Great Blues at Silo Overlook at Lake Barkley, where groups normally gather, in early October. A maximum of 40-65 birds was found at various places in shallow water along the rivers in Ballard, Livingston, and Carlisle counties (CP, BPB). At Dix Dam, a total of 17 birds was an "unprecedented number" there, due no doubt to low water levels (FL, WK). Great Egrets were present from August 1 through October 1, with the greatest number in Ballard and Carlisle counties. A large group of 138 was found roosting on Mitchell Lake on August 13-14 (BPB, DP) and a peak of 180 there on August 27. More than 42 were found from Back Slough south to Black Lake, Carlisle County on September 15 (CP); one to six at Cole Campground and Sinking Springs impoundments, Calloway County, August 12-15 (CP); one to four at the Falls of the Ohio from August 1 to September 21 (m. ob.); and one at Dix Dam, September 20-25 (FL, WK). Snowy Egrets were reported only from western Kentucky in Ballard, Carlisle, and Fulton counties from August 14 to September 18; numbers ranged from one to 12 birds. A single Little Blue Heron was at the Falls of the Ohio on August 4 and remained through August 30 (DP), two there August 19 (BPB). Other sightings included: four at Cole Campground, August 15 (CP); 17 immatures and one adult at BWMA on August 24 (CP); one still there on October 1 (BPB); and a late straggler on a pond along US 60, three miles west of Morehead on October 23 established a late date (FB). An immature Cattle Egret was at the Falls of the Ohio on August 6 (BBC); peak counts included 70 birds with cattle near Oscar, Ballard County on August 27, and 60 near Laketon, Carlisle County on August 14 (BPB). Also, about 30 were in a field, five miles southeast of Wickliffe on August 24 (CP); and one at Cole Campground August 18 and 22 were the only ones reported (CP). Twelve to 25 migrant Green-backed Herons were observed at the Falls of the Ohio August 19-26 (LR, BPB); five to seven at Sinking Springs on August 13 (CP); and a high of 41 birds at MCFH on September 16 (FB). Black-crowned Night-Herons peaked at the Falls of the Ohio with 115 birds on September 8 (BPB). A late bird was found below Wave Rock, Louisville on November 1 (LR). Other records of interest were: two birds at Science Hill, Pulaski County on August 16 (JEL); 12 at McNeely Lake September 1 (DP); an adult at Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County September 30 and a few on scattered dates on northern Lake Barkley above the dam (BPB). The only Yellow-crowned Night-Herons reported were the two to four at the Falls of the Ohio August 4, 6, 19 (DP, BPB).

Waterfowl — Migrant geese were slow in arriving, only 48 (47 Canada and 1 Snow) reached BWMA by the end of September (CW); a flock of 2500 Canada Geese was noted flying towards BWMA on October 12 (CP). The Canada Goose migration at BWMA occurred December 1-5, according to Charles Wilkins; 20,000 were there on December 8 and 5000 to 6000 Snow Geese (CW). Twelve Snows were also present at SWMA on November 4 (LR, KC) and a flock of 60 over Honker Lake (LBL area — RPB, DP, C. Justis). Other interesting records of Canada Geese included 12 at Fishing Creek, Pulaski County on October 5 (JEL); a maximum of

100 at Dix Dam on November 11 (FL, WK); and 40 flying over head near Lawrenceburg, Anderson County, November 27 (S, FS *et al.*). The duck population was down from last season. Charles Wilkins, manager of BWMA, estimated that although "water levels were good to normal" there were only 3000 to 4000 ducks using the area by December 1. He estimated that 90% of the birds were Mallards, and that Blacks, Northern Pintails and diving ducks made up the other 10%. No large duck movements were noted throughout the state. Dabbling ducks were on schedule. Some 60 Wood Ducks were reported at Sinking Springs and Cole Campground on August 17 (CP). Numbers of Green-winged Teal were low except for the 60 at Lake Pewee, November 14 (JH). Seventy-five Mallards had arrived there by October 28 (JH) and 60 at Dix Dam by November 11 (FL, WK). Small flocks of 20 to 30 Blue-winged Teal were observed along the Mississippi River in Fulton and Carlisle counties on August 28 and 29 (BPB). High counts included: 115 at MCFH on September 4, 150 to 200 at Smithland Dam, 88 at Honker Lake on October 2 (BPB); and 27 at the Falls of the Ohio (no date given — DP). One bird was still present at Lake Pewee on November 6 (KC, LR). Northern Shovelers were scarce. Gadwalls were reported in numbers from one to 18 birds at the following locations: Dix Dam (FL), Long Run County Park, Jefferson County (S, FS), Louisville (BPB), Lake Pewee (JH), LBL (CP), but 150 at Honker Bay on November 13 (BPB, DP, C. Justis). Three American Wigeons were present at Watson Point on Kentucky Bend, Fulton County on August 28 and one at Shawnee Steam Plant, McCracken County on August 29, while a large group of 175 was on Honker Lake, LBL on November 13 (BPB), and 70+ at LBL on November 18 (CP). Diving duck numbers were disappointing. Canvasbacks were reported from only two locations with a high count of nine at Louisville and approximately 35 at Lake Pewee on November 12 (BPB). A single Redhead was at BWMA on October 12 (CP); another at Freeman Lake, Hardin County on November 7 (RH); a "few" at Lake Pewee on November 12 (BPB); four at Dix Dam (FL); but nine at Louisville on November 1 (LR) and 35 there on November 20 (BPB). A male Ring-necked Duck at Pulaski County Park on September 10 was early (JEL); 177 reached Lake Pewee on October 28 (JH); and a raft of 650 there on November 4 (LR, KC) was the highest number reported. Other smaller concentrations included: 75 at Freeman Lake, November 7 (RH); and 120 at Honker and Hematite Lakes on November 20, 29 (CP). Single Greater Scaup were present at the Falls of the Ohio on October 25 (DP), Towhead Island at Louisville on November 10 (S, FS), and at Lake Pewee November 12 (BPB, DP). Four Lesser Scaup had arrived at the lake in Long Run County Park on October 25 (S, FS), but no large movement developed. The highest counts reported were 150 birds at Lake Pewee on November 4 (LR, KC) and more than 60 at Smithland Dam November 13 (CP). An Oldsquaw was above Smithland Dam on November 13 (BPB, DP, C. Justice). Three Surf Scoters were found on the Ohio River at Towhead Island October 22-23 (BPB) and a flock of 22 (females and/or immatures) on the Ohio River at Six Mile Island on October 27 (BPB, J. Bender, G. Henderson). Common Goldeneyes were reported from November 12-30 with only single birds at four locations, but up to five at Dix Dam (WK, FL). A fair movement of Hooded Mergansers developed with two birds in Barren County as the earliest fall migrants on October 19 (MS). The species became more numerous by early November with 17 at Lake Pewee on November 4 (LR), but 85 present at Silo Overlook on Lake Barkley November 13 and a flock of 500 on Honker Bay, November 26 (BPB). Two Common Mergansers were present on the Ohio River at Louisville on October 30 (DS); but

a flock of 30 was at Dix Dam on November 20, where they are seldom seen (WK *vide* FL). None of the flock were adult males. Red-breasted Mergansers showed up on November 13 at three locations: 30 at Smithland Dam (CP, H. Chambers, S. Leedom); eight at Lake Pewee, 25 at Honker Bay, but 100 there on November 26 (BPB). Also, a few birds were noted with other waterfowl on the Falls of the Ohio during November. Ruddy Ducks (3) arrived at BWMA on October 12 (CP); eight at Lake Pewee on October 17 (JH), 48 there on November 4 (KC, LR), and peaked at 66 on November 14 (JH); and small numbers were on the Ohio River at Louisville October 27 through November (DS, DP, BPB).

Hawks — A flock of 60 Black Vultures at MCFH on October 14 was the largest concentration reported (FB). Medium-sized groups of Turkey Vultures were noted at several locations: the largest concentrations were 350 near Princeton, Caldwell County November 7 (KC, LR), 70+ along the Ohio River from West Point to Brandenburg, Meade County on October 10 (DS); 58 below Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, October 2 (BPB, DP); and 53 at MCFH on October 28 (FB). Smaller groups included 30 over Science Hill on October 23 (JEL) and 25 in Barren County on September 20 (MS). There were more Osprey reports this fall than usual, with one to two birds at 13 locations (m.ob.). A total of 11 Mississippi Kites (3 ad., 7 juv., 1 first-year) was observed in Fulton, Carlisle and Ballard counties from August 14 to 29 (BPB, DP with sighting in Fulton Co.). Two Bald Eagles were at Mitchell Lake, Ballard County on August 13 (DP, BPB) and again on October 21 (L. Andrews *vide* BPB); two adults in flight over Pulaski County Park on October 19 (JEL); singles at Kentucky Lake on November 13 (DP, BPB) and at two locations in Hopkins County on October 9 (JH) and November 23 (B. West *vide* JH); and one adult and one of undetermined age at MCFH (FB, L. Korman). Forty Bald Eagles had arrived at BWMA by December 1 (CW). August sightings of the Northern Harrier included one at BWMA on August 27 and two in the Mississippi River bottoms of Carlisle County on August 29 (BPB). A total of 15 was tallied at a strip mining area in Ohio County on November 25 (KC, HC, Jr.) also one near Danville (FL) and two at MCFH (FB) on September 10 and November 5, respectively. There were few reports of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. There were no reports of Broad-winged flights submitted. Five Rough-legged Hawks appeared in a strip mining area in Ohio County on November 12 (KC, B. and T. Eaden); one in Livingston County on November 13 (BPB, DP, C. Justice); one in Oldham County on November 20 (BM, M. Monroe); and two in Clark County on November 25 (BA). A Golden Eagle, near the Ohio River in southwestern Jefferson County on October 26, was carefully studied and documented (DS). Another rarity, the Merlin, was reported on a few occasions as follows: an immature or female on SWMA, September 25 (BPB, D. Ebel, A. Mullen, L. Burdine); an injured bird picked up in Joe Creason Park in Louisville on November 7 and turned over to the Louisville Zoo for rehabilitation; and one in Okolona, Jefferson County on November 29 was documented (DP). A Peregrine Falcon was at the Falls of the Ohio on September 16 (LR, DP) and noted again on September 23 (BPB). Other sightings included one at Indian Hills on September 17 (LR, KC); one near Island No. 1, Carlisle County on October 1 (BPB, DP *et al.*); and one near Greenwood in southwestern Jefferson County on November 24 (DS).

Gallinaceous Birds through Cranes — Four Wild Turkeys were seen in the northern end of Kentucky Bend on August 28 (BPB). An immature

Virginia Rail was flushed near a hayfield in Bedford, Trimble County on August 25 and another on September 2 (JY). Soras were again observed at SWMA with one noted on August 26 and eight on September 25 (BPB *et al.*); one still there on October 9 (BBC); and one in weedy growth at Watson Point on September 18 (BPB, D. Ebel). There was a good migration of the American Coot with an unusual concentration of 2500 to 5000 in the cove at Hamlin on November 7 (JTE); 1800 was the high count at Lake Pewee on November 4 (LR, KC); 500 on Kentucky Lake and 200 on Lake Barkley on October 18 (BPB *et al.*); and 189 was the high count on the Ohio River at Louisville on October 30 (DS). Sandhill Cranes began moving south on October 22 with 110 sighted over Freeman Lake, Hardin County (RH) and 41 in eastern Jefferson County (BPB). November reports included four at SWMA on November 7 (KC); flock of 50 over Crescent Hill area of Louisville on November 13 (MB) and 25 in the same area the following day (TL); flock of 250 at BPS, Grayson County (KC, HC, Jr.) and 200+ between Danville and Perryville, Boyle County in mid-November (*vide* FL).

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration varied from place to place depending on available habitat. Kentucky and Barkley Lakes were too high for any flats in the usual places. Lake #9 in Fulton County was completely dried up while at Dix Dam low water level provided excellent habitat. This fall's flight was on schedule, but there were few noteworthy concentrations and few birds lingered beyond normal departure dates. Black-bellied and Lesser Golden Plovers were scarce, with only single birds of the former species reported from three locations: near Berkley, Carlisle County (DP, BPB), near Three Ponds, Hickman County (BPB), and at the Falls of the Ohio (LR). One to three Lesser Golden Plovers were found at the Falls of the Ohio August 6 to early October (DP, BPB). Three separate Lesser Golden Plovers were reported: one at Watson Point, one at BWMA, September 18 (BPB); and one at Dix Dam, October 2 (FL, WK). Semipalmated Plovers were in low numbers: 5 to 10 birds at Mitchell Lake, 10 to 15 at Kentucky Bend and at Island No. 1, August 28 and 29, respectively; singles and small groups ("up to several birds") at the Falls of the Ohio, August 6-September 11 (BPB). Two birds were noted intermittently at Pulaski County Park from August 30 to as late as October 19 (JEL). This year there were three reports of the rare Piping Plover, all from western Kentucky: one near Island No. 1, August 14 (BPB, DP); one near Berkley on August 27, and one at Watson Point on August 28 (BPB). Killdeer were numerous at Dix Dam and peaked there at 300 (FL, WK), while 76 was the high count at MCFH on November 8 (FB), and 60+ was the high number at Pulaski County Park on September 10 (JEL). An American Avocet at MCFH on September 4 was unusual (BPB, DP). Greater Yellowlegs made a poor showing, with only eight birds at Lake Pewee, November 4 (LR), the highest number reported. This species was observed regularly at Dix Dam as late as November 26 (FL, WK). Five Lesser Yellowlegs were still present at Freeman Lake on November 7 (RH). An Upland Sandpiper was seen at Barkley Dam on August 14 (DP, BPB). Single Ruddy Turnstones appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on scattered dates in late August and early September, and near Island No. 1 on August 27-29. The Red Knot at Mitchell Lake on August 29 provided Ballard County with its first record (BPB). Sanderlings appeared at the following locations: one to three birds at the Falls of the Ohio (DP, LR, BPB); singles at Dam #53 on the Ohio River and at MCFH (BPB); and a peak of 12 near Island No. 1 (BPB, DP); all sightings between August 1-September 24. Semipalmated Sandpipers were present in fair numbers

August 6-September 11, with peaks of 75 birds at Mitchell Lake and near Island No. 1. Two birds were observed by Beckham Bird Club members as late as October 9 at SWMA. Least Sandpipers were reported from Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, Jefferson, Mercer, and Rowan counties, with flocks of 40 and 75 at Kentucky Bend and Island No. 1, respectively; smaller numbers elsewhere. There was a fairly good flight of Western Sandpipers August 14-September 10: 12 at Mitchell Lake (BPB); 10-35 near Island No. 1 (DP, BPB); 5-10 at Watson Point (BPB); eight at the Falls of the Ohio (DP); one at Dix Dam (FL, WK); and one at MCFH (BPB). A White-rumped Sandpiper appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on September 6 (DP) and observed through September 11 (RH, BPB, D. Ebel). One to five Baird's Sandpipers were present on various dates between August 6-September 30 at the following locations: Kentucky Bend, Island No. 1, Dam #53, Mitchell Lake, Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County, Falls of the Ohio, and MCFH (BPB, DP). The Pectoral Sandpiper was widespread and the most numerous shorebird: a peak count of 300 at Mitchell Lake, 80 at the Falls of the Ohio; 75 near Island No. 1; 63 at Dix Dam; 40 at Paradise Steam Plant and the same number at MCFH (BPB, DP, FL, WK). Smaller numbers reported at Sinking Springs and Cole Campground lakes (CP) and at Pulaski County Park (JEL). Dunlin showed up in localities from Hopkins County to Rowan County in numbers from one to eight birds (m. ob.), but a high count of 26 was noted at Fishing Creek (JEL) and 19 at MCFH (FB). Stilt Sandpipers were unusually low in numbers — one to seven birds in six localities. There was a good movement of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with a record number of 16 at Watson Point August 28 (BPB). Other sightings were: 10 birds on the Mississippi River dikefields near Island No. 1 (BPB); one at Lake #9 (BPB); and one to three birds at the Falls of the Ohio (DP, BPB). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported in low numbers (1 to 4) at six locations (CP, M. Miller, BPB, JEL). A Long-billed Dowitcher was seen and heard at Mitchell Lake on the early date of September 18 (BPB, D. Ebel); and one at SWMA on October 9 (BBC). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported: one near Island No. 1, August 27 (BPB); and one at MCFH, September 4 (DP, BPB).

Gulls — Three Laughing Gulls appeared in western Kentucky: a first-summer bird at Kentucky Lake, August 26-29 (BPB); an adult in winter plumage, below Smithland Dam, October 1-2 (KOS); and an immature (probably second-year) on Lake Barkley on October 2 (BPB). A total of six Franklin's Gulls was reported: one each at Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley (BPB, D. Yancey, L. Andrews); two at Smithland Dam (DP, BPB, KOS); and two at Freeman Lake (RH). A single Bonaparte's Gull returned to Smithland Dam on October 2 (KOS), but a large movement developed at Kentucky Lake, where on November 12 a total of 250+ was counted. The following evening, during a hurried check of just a portion of the gull roost, some 400-500 birds were counted (DP, BPB). It was estimated that the group probably numbered closer to 1000 birds. Also, one to two birds were reported at Freeman Lake (RH), Pulaski County Park (JEL), and at Dix Dam (WK, FL). Twenty to 25 Ring-billed Gulls were present on the Ohio River at Louisville as early as August 6 (DP) and a similar number appeared at Kentucky Lake on August 13 (BPB, DP). Numbers increased in October and late November and high counts were: 173 at Louisville (LR); 130 at Dix Dam (WK, FL), 200 at Markland Dam (LMc); and 7500 above Kentucky Dam (BPB). As expected, due to the mild fall, only low numbers of Herring Gulls were noted at the traditional

sites; a second-year bird was present on the Ohio River at Louisville throughout August. Other rarities reported were: a first-year Thayer's Gull below Kentucky Dam, November 12-13, 26, 27; another first-year bird at Smithland Dam, November 26 (BPB); a first-year Lesser Black-backed Gull on Kentucky Lake, October 2 (BPB, DP, KOS); one below the Dam on November 26-27 was probably the same bird.

Terns — Five species of terns were reported; all were in low numbers, with the exception of the Black Tern. Caspian Terns were present from August 1 to September 16 with peak counts of eight birds at the Falls of the Ohio on August 30 (DP) and three birds at MCFH on September 4 (BPB); also a high count of seven birds at Fishing Creek Recreational Area on September 5 (JEL). Seven Common Terns were carefully studied below McAlpin Dam on August 6 (LR). There were a few reports of Forster's Terns, with the highest number — 14 — at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB); six birds in winter plumage, at Big Pond Sanctuary, November 21, were late (KC). One to six Least Terns (a few juvenile birds) were present August 13 to 28 mainly along the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers (CP, BPB); a juvenile noted at the Falls of the Ohio August 19-20 (BPB, D. Ebel, Tim Love). There was a good flight of Black Terns August 6-28: 25 on the Ohio River at Louisville, 60 below Smithland Dam, and approximately 60 at Dam #53, and 25 at Hickman, Fulton County (BPB).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — Cuckoos remain scarce. There was only one report of a Black-billed Cuckoo at McNeely Lake on September 1 (DP). A Barn Owl in the Madisonville area on September 25 was the only one reported (*vide* JH). Short-eared Owls were quite conspicuous on reclaimed strip mined land in southern Ohio County, where 10 were seen in the air at one time, November 27 (KC, A. Wilson). An early date was established for the Northern Saw-whet Owl when one was observed on a rural road in Perry County, October 12 (DSp). Common Nighthawk migration was at its peak in Boone County on August 16-23 (LMc). Flocks noted as follows: 150 passed over south Jefferson County on August 30 (DP); 75+ at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, September 3 (JEL); 75 over southwest Jefferson County on September 15 (DS); and 25-30 in Indian Hills, Louisville in September (no date given — KC). A Whip-poor-will was heard calling at Pulaski County Park as late as September 14 (JEL). A hummingbird, noted on the Falls of the Ohio on the late date of October 27, was carefully studied, and proved to be a Ruby-throated (DP).

Flycatchers through Swallows — An Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed at Surrey Hills Farm, Louisville on September 2; and one at Watson Point, September 18 (BPB, D. Ebel). An Eastern Kingbird at Creason Park on October 13 was rather late in departing (BS). At least 100 Horned Larks were present on strip mined land in Ohio County on November 12 (KC, B. and T. Eaden). A small flock of Tree Swallows was still present at Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County on October 10 (LMc) and a group of 10 lingered at MCFH on October 14 (FB). Rough-winged Swallows were present in vast numbers in western Kentucky in Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, and Fulton counties on September 30 (DN, RN). A large flock of Bank Swallows estimated at 2000 birds was observed on a sandbar near Lake No. 9 on August 25 (BPB). Ten Cliff Swallows were still present at MCFH on September 9 (FB).

Crows through Thrushes — Fair numbers of Fish Crows were sighted during August from Ballard County to Hickman County; high counts included: 12 near Berkley on August 14 and approximately 25 birds moving down the Mississippi River, near Island No. 1; one was still present at Kentucky Bend on September 18 (BPB). A Common Raven was reported at Cumberland Gap on September 30 (BA). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce; only two reports of single birds were received. Sedge Wrens were reported from four locations: a singing bird at BWMA, August 14; non-singing bird at Island No. 1 on August 29 (BPB); singing, territorial birds were present throughout August-early October at SWMA (BBC, BPB); two at Skylight, Oldham County on September 11 (LR, KC). A few Marsh Wrens were reported: one along the Mississippi River, near Island No. 1 on September 18 (BPB); two birds near Paradise Steam Plant on September 30 (DP, BPB); and several at SWMA, where they have been found for the past two years (BPB, A. Mullen, L. Burdine, D. Ebel). Golden-crowned Kinglets were late in arriving: one at Creason Park on October 4 was the earliest (BS); and not observed in Madison County until October 11 (GR). A Veery in the Danville area on August 25 was early for central Kentucky (FL); another was sighted at Surrey Hills Farm on September 10 (BPB). An early Swainson's Thrush returned to the Danville area on August 25, and established an early state date (FL). Flocks of migrating American Robins were not observed in the Bedford, Trimble County area this fall (JY) and there were fewer seen in south-central Louisville (BS), where heretofore they have been numerous. The only sizable flock reported was 125+ at MCFH on October 14 (FB). An interesting note from Frederick Loetscher stated that the feature of the fall for him was "the copious, full-throated singing of robins most of November up through Thanksgiving." A "100% albino robin" was observed in the Danville area on November 30 (WK *fide* FL).

Pipits through Vireos — A few Water Pipits were reported: three to seven birds near Island No. 1 on October 1 (DP, BPB *et al.*) 10+ at Pulaski County Park, October 19 (JEL); a few along Wolf Creek, Russell County, November 9, where records, if any, are few (JEL); and a few heard in late October and November at Surrey Hills Farm (BPB). A total of five Loggerhead Shrikes was reported: singles at three separate locations in Pulaski County (JEL); one in Breckinridge County (KC); and one in the Danville area (FL). A Bell's Vireo was still present at the Union County nesting area, discovered this summer by Alan Barron, on August 26 (BPB). Philadelphia Vireos were noted in Madison County on September 26, October 17 and 26 (GR); one at the Falls of the Ohio, September 21 (DP); and one at McNeely Lake, September 22 (DP).

Warblers — The warbler migration was not up to par, few major waves were noted; best days were September 3-9 and September 26-29. One observer thought the migration was "better than average"; another noted that "most warblers seemed almost nonexistent." Nevertheless, most species were observed, but in low numbers. There were two reports of the Golden-winged Warbler: One in Carlisle County on August 27 (BPB); and one in Indian Hills on September 4 (KC). A Lawrence's hybrid was reported at Louisville on September 2 (BPB, BBC). A few Orange-crowned Warblers arrived earlier than usual: one at the Falls of the Ohio on September 21 (DP); and three in one tree at Maceo in early October (AP). Five Northern Parulas were noted at Mammoth Cave National Park on September 29 (MS) and one present at the Falls of the Ohio as late as October 7 (DP). There was a good flight of Chestnut-

sided Warblers in the Danville vicinity (FL). Magnolia Warblers were more numerous in Joe Creason and Clark Parks than the other migrant warblers (BS). Yellow-rumped Warblers arrived at Madisonville on September 26, where the species was "scarce", and numbers were also below normal in the Danville area. However, good flights were noted in Grayson and Rowan counties, with a count of 50-75 birds at BPS on October 8 (KC), and a count of 200 at MCFH on October 14 (FB). There were two reports of the rare fall migrant, the Blackpoll: one in the Danville area on the early date of September 6 (FL); and one at Surrey Hills Farm on September 10 (BPB, D. Ebel). Both birds were studied carefully and at close range. A good flight of Blackburnians developed over the Danville area, but few were noted elsewhere. A Palm Warbler at the Falls of the Ohio on September 4 was fairly early (BPB).

Grosbeaks through Finches — A pair of Blue Grosbeaks observed in the Maceo area, Daviess County on August 20 may have been breeding birds (AP). Two American Tree Sparrows returned to MCFH by October 14 (FB). A good sparrow migration was observed at Camp Ernst Lake on October 10; eight species were noted including Vesper and Savannah (LMc). A total of 15 Savannah Sparrows was noted at MCFH on October 14 (FB). The rare Le Conte's at SWMA on October 9 was carefully studied by all members of the field trip (BBC). A Fox Sparrow at Clark Park, Louisville on October 11 was fairly early (BS), while in Madison County, it was not observed until October 28 (GR). Lincoln and White-crowned Sparrows returned to Madison County by September 28 (GR) and White-throated to Hopkins County on October 6 (JH). A good movement of the latter species was encountered at MCFH on October 17, where 45 were counted (FB). White-crowned Sparrows were scarce in the Louisville area. A Lapland Longspur was heard with a flock of Horned Larks on the Surrey Hills Farm on November 17 (BPB). Single migrant Bobolinks were noted at BWMA and near Three Ponds, August 27 and 28, respectively. Blackbirds were scarcely mentioned by observers. No large mixed blackbird concentrations were reported, with the exception of a flock of 4000, in east Louisville on November 7 (S, FS). A few Rusty Blackbirds returned to MCFH by November 5 (FB). There were no flights of Purple Finches; only five birds reported in the Madisonville area on November 28 (B. West *vide* JH); and one bird at Louisville on November 30 (BPB). Pine Siskins were virtually absent; one bird at Pulaski County Park on October 19 (JEL), and two at the Mayfair Basins in Louisville, October 29 (LR). No Evening Grosbeaks were reported.

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Mary B. Bauer (MB), John Callahan (JC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Herbert Clay (HC), Jackie Elmore (JEL), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), James W. Hancock (JH), Richard Healy (RH), William Kemper (WK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Tim Love (TL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), Carl Mowery (CM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Robert Noonan (RN), Donald Parker (DP), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), A. L. Powell (AP), Lene Rauth (LR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Bernice Shannon (BS), Michael Sturgeon (MS), Donald Spencer (DSp), Donald Parker (DP), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson Scottie Theiss (ST), Charles Wilkins (CW), John Young (JY).

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1988-1989

Reports of 23 counts were received from across the state. A total of 117 species was recorded on count days, 102 of which are represented on the table. Those species not represented on the table include: one Snow Goose (Danville), one Osprey (Marion), one Golden Eagle (Bernheim), one Prairie Falcon (tentatively; Paradise), one American Flamingo (Bowling Green), one Oldsquaw (Land Between the Lakes), one Thayer's Gull (Land Between the Lakes), 21 Short-eared Owls (Paradise), two Gray Catbirds (Frankfort and Perry County), one Pine Warbler (Calloway County), four Indigo Buntings (Paradise), one Chipping Sparrow (Sorgho), three Vesper Sparrows (2-Marion and 1-Yelvington), one Lapland Longspur (Warsaw; 3 during count week at Paradise) and 15 Snow Buntings (Shelbyville). Thirteen species were recorded on all counts and 19 species were noted only on a single count. The additional sighting of a Ruffed Grouse (Perry County) during the count week brought the species total to 118 species. There were three less species this year compared with the tally last year.

The average daytime temperature remained near the 40 degree mark throughout the count period with a range of 24°F to 50°F. Waterfowl variety was good, but numbers remained low. Members of several species, such as Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Pine Warbler and Indigo Bunting lingered in association with the warmer temperatures. Consistent with this notion, the number of American Robins observed on counts across the state was high. The count initiated at the Paradise strip mine area yielded some interesting birds. Twenty one Short-eared Owls and a Prairie Falcon, which would be the first record of this species in the state if confirmed, were exciting additions to the count from this area. An American Flamingo that arrived unexpectedly in Bowling Green earlier in the year, probably prodded northward from a zoo or captive population by hurricane Keith, lingered in the area until its capture and delivery to the Louisville Zoo shortly after the count period. Two American Flamingos were reported in Iowa earlier this year following the passage of hurricane Allen along the Texas coast.

Although any conclusions based on census data such as these are spurious, several trends are interesting. Eastern Bluebird numbers continue to increase. There was a total of 1427 Eastern Bluebirds reported during this year's count compared with 1018 from last year and 787 the year before that. No large winter roosts were reported this year and numbers of blackbirds and starlings were down. There were 558 more House Finches and 352 less House Sparrows observed this year compared with last. Despite the severe drought experienced during the summer, the food supply for finches and sparrows appeared to be adequate. The mild winter weather helped reduce the impact that locally diminished food resources might have had on wintering bird populations.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts.

CALLOWAY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential and 35% pastures and open fields. Dec. 31; 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky heavy fog a.m., partly

cloudy p.m.; temp. 24°F. to 44°F.; wind NW, 2-5 m.p.h. Ten observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 45.5 (27.5 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 413 (46 on foot, 367 by car). Total species 82; total individuals 27,638.

Large flocks of robins were seen in almost every section of the count.

Observers: Phyllis Brines, Wally Brines, Happy Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Rick Hokans, Sally Leedom, Carl Mowery, Mike Miller, Clell Peterson and Lawrence Philpot.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 22%, overgrown and cultivated fields 28% and residential and small business 10%. Dec. 17: 5:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy in a.m. to clear in p.m.; temp. 27°F. to 40°F.; wind W, 8-15 m.p.h. Eighteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 53 (24 on foot, 29 by car). Total party-miles 419 (17 on foot, 402 by car). Total species 85; total individuals 12,192.

The Thayer's Gull is a first for the Land Between the Lakes count. The House Finches were seen in the Kutawa area in one large flock. The Oldsquaw, a drake, was seen with a group of goldeneyes (BPB) approximately one mile south of Kentucky Dam Village. The Thayer's Gull was north of Barkley Dam. The Wild Turkeys were in two large flocks.

Observers: Wally Brines, Happy Chambers, Melissa Easley, Rick Hokans, Sharon Hutchison, Dick Marzolf, Carl Mowery (compiler), Judi Munn, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Don Parker, Clell Peterson, Lawrence and LuAnn Philpot, Ed Ray, Julie Ricketts, Al Roth, Ken Smith and Charlotte Washburn.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat river (2 miles), open cropland 50%, wooded and brushy 50%. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy in a.m., clear in p.m.; temp. 36°F. to 50°F.; wind NW, <5 m.p.h. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 25 (5 on foot, 20 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 3,749.

Observers: C. L. Frazer (compiler) and Jim Frazer.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279-S and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat woods, fields, branches of the Green River, ditches, and feeders. Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky sunny; temp. 28°F. to 43°F.; wind 5-15 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 58 (46 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 141 (23 on foot, 118 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 9,498.

The Chipping Sparrow was seen by Joe Ford and Neal Hayden.

Observers: Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Neal Hayden, John Humphrey, Furman Millay, Joyce Porter, A. L. Powell, Millie Powell, Tommy Stevenson, Donna Wilson, Ed Wilson (compiler), Elinor Wilson and Julian Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Kentucky Highway 405 and junction at Route 662 at Yelvington, Ky.) Habitat Ohio River Bottoms, Blackford Creek bottoms, woods, roadside ditches, three lakes and feeders at Ray's, Lacey's and Powell's. Dec. 17; 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 28°F. to 36°F.; wind 5-15 m.p.h. Other weather comments: windy and cold in the morning with snow flurries.

Thirteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 26 (10 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 57 (12 on foot, 45 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 2,437.

The morning was cold and windy with snow flurries. The afternoon was calmer and cleared somewhat.

As in the past few counts the waterfowl was missing. Carpenter's and King fisheries lakes were searched and yielded only a grebe and two Wood Ducks. The Ohio River had no waterfowl, but yielded three Herring Gulls. Mr. Bill Perkins and Mr. T. O. Blackburn found an immature Bald Eagle on the Ohio River near Maceo, Kentucky.

We were pleased with having found 62 Eastern Bluebirds, some by each party. Robins were in large flocks at several locations. A concentration of White-crowned Sparrows made their numbers reach 191. It was rather odd that only a single Yellow-rumped Warbler was found.

In the afternoon we had only two parties in the field.

Observers: T. O. Blackburn, Marty Brown, Mike Brown, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Neal Hayden, Jan Howard, Jim Howard, Bill Perkins, Joyce Porter, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Marvin Ray, Maudie Ray and Dr. Bill Tyler. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Don Lacey made observations at a feeder).

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields, farmland and creek bottom. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 34°F. to 37°F.; wind calm.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 6 (5 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 16 (6 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 25; total individuals 88.

Observers: Rose Ann Radzelovage (compiler) and Walt Radzelovage.

PARADISE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Pond Run Road and Wysox-Cool Springs Road in southern Ohio County.) Habitat 30% grasslands, 20% woodlands, 20% farmland, 20% brushy edges and fields, 10% lakes and streams. Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 25°F. to 40°F.; wind SE, 0-12 m.p.h.

Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 28 (11.5 on foot, 16.5 by car). Total party-miles 165 (4 on foot, 161 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 2,870.

This count was organized in an attempt to initiate documentation of the substantial raptor population utilizing the expansive reclaimed strip mines in southern Ohio and Muhlenberg counties. Although coverage was far from complete, impressive totals were compiled for raptors including the 40 Northern Harriers, 25 Rough-legged Hawks and 21 Short-eared Owls (all unanimously accepted by the participants as conservative totals). Nearly all participants were able to observe, albeit most only very briefly, the Prairie Falcon, which was first observed ten days prior to the count day. This individual has proven to be relatively elusive, and leisurely study of all field marks and good photographs have not been obtained by anyone. Birders visiting the area in search of the falcon are encouraged to try to obtain photographs in order to confirm this possible first state record.

Other highlights of the count included 10 Great Blue Herons, a migrating flock of 48 Bonaparte's Gulls, a Brown Thrasher, and a flock of at least four Indigo Buntings (one of only a handful of winter records and the second for the state in winter of more than one bird). Of the 37 Red-tailed Hawks, one was a dark-phase and one was an individual of the Harlan's race. Interesting count week birds included Black Vultures, an immature Bald Eagle and a few Lapland Longspurs.

This unique area deserves much ornithological attention, and birders are encouraged to explore more of the surrounding areas. It is inevitable that additional noteworthy ornithological occurrences will be discovered here if more investigation is undertaken. The presence of other raptors should be investigated including Long-eared and Saw-whet owls in pine and cedar thickets, as well as Snowy Owls in the open grasslands.

Observers: Mike Brown, Tony and Brenda Eaden, Diane Ebel, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (Compiler), Joyce Porter, Bert and Millie Powell, Doralee St. Clair and Scottie Theiss.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forests 20%, fields and pastures 70% and town and parks 10%. Dec. 17; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 29°F. to 36°F.; wind NW, 5-12 m.p.h. Ponds were frozen. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (11 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 84 (8 on foot, 76 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 2,986.

The American Flamingo has been in this area for a month and several attempts have been made to capture it.

Observers: Lloyd Curry, Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason, Bill Mathes, Ruth Mathes and H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 18; 7:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 19°F. to 45°F.; wind SW, 10-15 m.p.h. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12 (8.5 on foot, 3.5 by car). Total party-miles 73.5 (8.5 on foot, 65 by car). Total species 41; total individuals 1,799.

Observers: Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Wayne Mason, Herb E. Shadowen.

GLASGOW (center and habitat as described in 1986.) Dec. 30; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky heavily overcast throughout the day; temp. 29°F. to 43°F.; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h. There was intermittent drizzle throughout the afternoon. Nine observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 43.75 (25.50 on foot, 18.25 by car). Total party-miles 142 (14 on foot, 128 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 3,363.

Observers: Mrs. O. L. Follis, Marquita Gillenwater, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Todd Moore, and Dr. and Mrs. Russell R. Starr.

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Craddock Road and Gerald Lane.) Habitat ponds, river, woodland and farmland. Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 29°F. to 43°F.; wind calm. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (9.5 on foot, 4.5 by car). Total party-miles 87 (10 on foot, 77 by car). Total species 49; total individuals 2,172.

Observers: J. D. Craddock, III, Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton, Mitchell Sturgeon and Charles Wuertzer.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 22%, woodlands 34%, farmland 30%, ponds, creeks and river 14%. Dec. 17; 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky cloudy to clear; temp. 27°F. to 29°F.; wind NW, 10-22 m.p.h. Occasional snow flurries between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 32.5 (15.5 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles 198 (14 on foot, 184 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 2,707.

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1988-1989

| | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGOH | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | PARADISE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NTL. PARK | GLASGOW | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | PERRY COUNTY | WEST LIBERTY |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| COMMON LOON | 1* | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | 25 | 15 | | | 2 | 5 | | | | | | | | 6 | 1 | 1 | | 5 | | | 1 | | |
| HORNED GREBE | 21 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| DOUBLE-CR. CORMORANT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 21 | 22 | 1 | | 1 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 20 | 9 | 41 | 11 | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | 85 | 588 | 60 | | | 650 | | | | 73 | | 64 | 15 | 265 | | 102 | | 215 | 616 | 39 | | | 8 |
| WOOD DUCK | | 1 | | | 2 | | | 2 | | | 6 | | | 8 | | | | | 6 | | | | |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | 1 | | 20 | | 1 | | | |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | 4 | 88 | | | | 16 | | | 8 | 4 | | | | 344 | 1 | 13 | | 24 | 66 | 6 | 2 | | |
| MALLARD | 42 | 370 | | 25 | | 104 | 60 | | | 92 | 40 | 45 | 31 | 1287 | 2 | 139 | 11 | 341 | 268 | 156 | 21 | | 5 |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| BLUE-W. TEAL | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | | | | 10 | 2 | | | | |
| GADWALL | 62 | 104 | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | 21 | | 4 | | 9 | | 2 | | | |
| AMERICAN WIGEON | | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | 36 | | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| CANVASBACK | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 15 | | | | | | | | | |
| REDHEAD | | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | 2 | 57 | | | | 9 | | | | | | | 1 | 9 | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| LESSER SCAUP | 3 | 22 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 31 | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | 11 | 330 | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | 1 | 15 | 3 | | |
| BUFFLEHEAD | 11 | 82 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| HOODED Merganser | 20 | 286 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | 55 | | 1 | | | |

[illegible]

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1988-1989

| | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | PARADISE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NTL. PARK | GLASGOW | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | PERRY COUNTY | WEST LIBERTY |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| NORTHERN FLICKER | 25 | 28 | 4 | 23 | 40 | 2 | 11 | 25 | 18 | 30 | 6 | 15 | 31 | 70 | 20 | 23 | 9 | 37 | 21 | 9 | 20 | 2 | 3 |
| PILEATED WOODPECKER | 7 | 18 | 2 | | 2 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 7 | 8 | 29 | 21 | 21 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 26 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| EASTERN PHOEBE | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| HORNED LARK | 18 | | | 17 | 80 | 125 | 102 | | | * | | 200 | 40 | 130 | 20 | | | 28 | 100 | 40 | | 7* | |
| BLUE JAY | 230 | 134 | 80 | 77 | 91 | 10 | 67 | 32 | 75 | 71 | 25 | 95 | 474 | 327 | 37 | 133 | 90 | 160 | 71 | 90 | 97 | 4 | 11 |
| AMERICAN CROW | 101 | 59 | 28 | 4500 | 93 | 4 | 62 | 26 | 45 | 131 | 82 | 229 | 353 | 378 | 46 | 254 | 81 | 2169 | 60 | 66 | 106 | 20 | 40 |
| CAROLINA CHICKADEE | 86 | 88 | 40 | 60 | 66 | 4 | 39 | 35 | 38 | 49 | 38 | 54 | 193 | 385 | 16 | 148 | 41 | 268 | 103 | 74 | 73 | 1 | 43 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 139 | 126 | 18 | 51 | 63 | 3 | 11 | 25 | 30 | 43 | 24 | 52 | 126 | 238 | 4 | 65 | 27 | 116 | 26 | 44 | 25 | 3 | 15 |
| RED-BR. NUTHATCH | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 | | | | 4 | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH | 42 | 34 | 16 | 8 | 23 | 1 | 5 | 16 | 8 | 14 | 27 | 50 | 54 | | | 12 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 29 | 15 | 10 | 23 |
| BROWN CREEPER | 3 | 8 | | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2 | | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 | | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| CAROLINA WREN | 48 | 20 | 1 | 19 | 12 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 23 | 19 | 12 | 50 | 185 | 3 | 54 | 24 | 59 | 6 | 18 | 32 | 1 | 43 |
| WINTER WREN | 1 | 4 | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | | 10 | 2 | 9 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET | 2 | 8 | | | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 9 | | 5 | 48 | 34 | | 5 | 21 | 19 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| RUBY-CR. KINGLET | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD | 99 | 101 | 1 | 22 | 62 | 6 | 55 | 32 | 40 | 19 | 103 | 57 | 203 | 86 | 41 | 102 | 45 | 109 | 92 | 62 | 57 | 6 | 27 |
| HERMIT THRUSH | 7 | 5 | | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| AMERICAN ROBIN | 5699 | 85 | 250 | 267 | 295 | 63 | 365 | 673 | 666 | 126 | 156 | 1053 | 1939 | 435 | 2008 | 213 | 2250 | 68 | 51 | 143 | * | 1 | 9 |
| N. MOCKINGBIRD | 25 | 10 | 22 | 22 | 32 | 2 | 7 | 31 | | 24 | 10 | 12 | 41 | 162 | 44 | 43 | 3 | 42 | 21 | 10 | 17 | 1 | 1 |
| BROWN THRASHER | 7 | 4 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 1 | 4 | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| CEDAR WAXWING | 250 | 97 | 4 | 27 | 75 | 2 | 42 | 326 | 70 | 96 | 616 | 27 | 48 | 318 | 149 | | | 344 | 38 | | 44 | | |
| LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE | 19 | 4 | 7 | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | * | 4 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 3 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|-------|
| EUROPEAN STARLING | 5859 | 1165 | 650 | 3025 | 350 | 1 | 448 | 300 | 24 | 495 | 1082 | 753 | 1392 | 21775 | 1739 | 2198 | 417 | 6727 | 5538 | 399 | 863 | 1 |
| YELLOW-R. WARBLER | 3 | 12 | | 1 | | 7 | 9 | 63 | 18 | 6 | 132 | 83 | 6 | 58 | 15 | 30 | | | 5 | 13 | | |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL | 185 | 142 | 200 | 92 | 166 | 10 | 47 | 92 | 8 | 120 | 47 | 72 | 238 | 901 | 77 | 311 | 81 | 214 | 137 | 143 | 128 | 1 197 |
| RUFIOUS-S. TOWHEE | 59 | 50 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 4 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 65 | 96 | | 10 | 23 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 17 |
| AM. TREE SPARROW | 1 | | 5 | 10 | 4 | 9 | * | | | | | 3 | 19 | | 4 | 4 | | | 10 | 36 | | |
| FIELD SPARROW | 9 | 49 | 14 | | 10 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 18 | 4 | 4 | 53 | 47 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 6 | 131 | 3 | 5 | 28 | |
| SAVANNAH SPARROW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| FOX SPARROW | 2 | 2 | * | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | | | 4 | | | |
| SONG SPARROW | 63 | 33 | 8 | 35 | 43 | 2 | 45 | 54 | 89 | 41 | 31 | 184 | 415 | 21 | 143 | 50 | 133 | 46 | 34 | 104 | 1 87 | |
| SWAMP SPARROW | 5 | 7 | | | 30 | 11 | | | 6 | 4 | 2 | 16 | 26 | | 5 | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | |
| WHITE-THR. SPARROW | 213 | 102 | 150 | 18 | 60 | 2 | 30 | 135 | 121 | 130 | 25 | 34 | 169 | 464 | 2 | 200 | 42 | 134 | 26 | 29 | 43 | 1 37 |
| WHITE-CR. SPARROW | 1 | | 150 | 25 | 191 | 20 | 11 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 22 | 29 | 19 | 38 | 16 | 53 | 26 | * | 48 | | |
| D-EYED JUNCO | 645 | 546 | 600 | 7 | 67 | 16 | 137 | 42 | 111 | 26 | 30 | 155 | 579 | 640 | 101 | 293 | 154 | 439 | 112 | 201 | 132 | 20 14 |
| RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD | 2 | 50 | * | 56 | | 122 | 18 | | 36 | | | | 397 | 3 | | | 40 | 525 | 8 | | | |
| E. MEADOWLARK | 140 | 2 | 7 | 29 | 1 | 61 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 13 | 83 | 13 | 20 | 12 | 25 | 59 | 20 | | | | 7 | |
| RUSTY BLACKBIRD | | | | 27 | 5 | 1 | | 310 | | | 161 | 111 | | | 3 | 301 | | | | | | |
| BREWER'S BLACKBIRD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 300 | | | | | | |
| COMMON GRACKLE | 102 | 11 | 24 | 300 | 3 | 2 | 1040 | 20 | 7 | 14 | 22 | 1 | 1 | 110 | 5 | 3496 | | | | | | |
| BR.-HEADED COWBIRD | | 1 | 32 | 3 | | 25 | * | 4 | 10 | 7 | 115 | | 1 | | 40 | 755 | 18 | | | | | |
| PURPLE FINCH | 16 | 48 | * | | | | * | 52 | 13 | 22 | 1 | 61 | 2 | 1 | 100 | 65 | 23 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 2 | |
| HOUSE FINCH | 60 | 56 | | 25 | 81 | | 52 | 116 | 5 | 5 | 240 | 339 | 13 | 320 | 1 | 355 | 290 | 34 | 2 | 17 | | |
| PINE SISKIN | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | 2 | 5 | 1 | | | | | | |
| AM. GOLDFINCH | 201 | 261 | 2 | 61 | 59 | 45 | 18 | 10 | 42 | 13 | 155 | 271 | 343 | 41 | 275 | 39 | 355 | 33 | 161 | 119 | 1 37 | |
| EVENING GROSBREAK | | 1 | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HOUSE SPARROW | 218 | 100 | 600 | 375 | 125 | 6 | 60 | 52 | 121 | 5 | 30 | 186 | 913 | 227 | 257 | 107 | 470 | 134 | 50 | 39 | 30 11 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|-----|-----|
| DAY OF COUNT | D31 | D17 | J1 | D31 | D17 | J1 | D26 | D17 | D18 | D30 | D30 | D17 | J2 | D18 | J1 | D18 | D26 | D17 | D17 | D17 | D31 | D31 | J2 |
| NUMBER OF SPECIES | 82 | 85 | 48 | 46 | 58 | 25 | 63 | 58 | 41 | 58 | 49 | 47 | 64 | 89 | 46 | 60 | 44 | 81 | 71 | 54 | 59 | 25 | 42 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 27638 | 12192 | 3749 | 9498 | 2437 | 88 | 2870 | 2986 | 1799 | 3363 | 2172 | 2707 | 7402 | 36088 | 3434 | 8209 | 2351 | 16346 | 15675 | 2571 | 3181 | 130 | 880 |
| OBSERVERS | 10 | 18 | 2 | 13 | 13 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 18 | 40 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 35 | 28 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 4 |

*Observed during the count period, but not on the count day.

The wind was strong and picked up around 11 o'clock and continued throughout the day, with gusts of 22 m.p.h. All ponds were frozen, but running water was open. This was one of the poorest counts in years. Birds were scarce. Waterfowl and hawks were practically absent. Drought conditions were obvious and the food crop for sparrows and finches was below average. The Great Blue Heron is seldom found on this count, but *six* birds were observed. The Ring-billed Gull count — 47 — was our highest count for this species. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were in lower numbers than last year while Pileated Woodpeckers were in higher numbers. Sparrows were scarce in species and numbers. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows continued to decline in numbers.

Observers: Mary B. Bauer, John Krull, Doxie Noonan, R. T. Noonan, Helga Schutte, Tony Smith, Anne Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm, Scottie Theiss, Steve Washburn.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Jan. 2; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 33°F. to 39°F.; wind N-NW, 0-10 m.p.h. Intermittent drizzle. Eighteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 46.5 (25.5 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles 229.5 (7.5 on foot, 222 by car, plus 2 hours owling). Total species 64; total individuals 7,402.

Weather conditions were not favorable for the observation of vultures and hawks, accounting for the lack of diversity and numbers. Wild food crops appeared to be good. Totals for numbers of species and individuals were about average. The most noteworthy highlight was the immature Golden Eagle, observed on a deer carcass along Wilson Creek where the species has been seen in past years (DP, LS). According to Charles McClure, Forest Manager, there are small numbers of both species of eagles in this area every winter, apparently attracted by the number of deer carcasses. Other interesting observations included the Eastern Phoebe, a near record number of Eastern Bluebirds (203 compared with an all-time high of 204 in 1975-1976) and Cedar Waxwings (616 compared with an all-time high of 661 in 1979-1980), and record numbers of American Robins (1053 compared with a previous high of 819 in 1984-1985) and House Finches (a whopping 240 compared with a previous high of *four* in 1986-1987!). Conspicuous by their absence on a count that often tops the state for the species were Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Bob Brown, Wayne Dahl, Diane Ebel, Arthur Figg, Janet Gebler, George Jones, Judi Jones, Tim Love, P. K. and Etta Martin, Joan Noel, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Donald Parker, Martha Pike, Tony Smith, Larry Sparks.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 18; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear in a.m., overcast in p.m.; temp. 19°F. to 57°F.; wind SW-W, 0-20 m.p.h. Ponds and lakes partly frozen. Forty observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours 127 (64 on foot, 63 by car). Total party-miles 696 (67 on foot, 629 by car). Total species 89; total individuals 36,088.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Mary Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Don Blackburn, K. W. Clay, Donna Coates, Muriel Doolittle, Diana Ebel, S. A. Figg, Katy Fulkerson, D. C. Garst, Wayne Hinkle, Frank Krull, Jr., Frank Krull, Sr., John Krull, Tim Love, Barbara McFarland, Jim McFarland, B. L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mark Monroe, K. C. Mudd, Dot Muntan, Doxie Noonan, J. R. Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Donald Parker,

Robert Patrick, Martha Pike, Bob Quaife, Lene Rauth, V. C. Rommel, Carl Schultz, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith, Anne Stamm, F. W. Stamm, Midge Susie, Scottie Theiss, Steve Washburn, (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center .75 miles south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on Ky. Highway 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farm land, fallow land, residential, wooded and grassland. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast and foggy; temp. 34°F. to 46°F.; wind N, 5-12 m.p.h. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 10 (0.5 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party-miles 210 (0.5 on foot, 209.5 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 3,434.

Observers: Leslie Brown, Todd Brown and W. H. Brown (compiler), J. C. Higgins, Frank Longley and Iris Snyder.

FRANKFORT (center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 17°F. to 34°F.; wind SW, 7-15 m.p.h. Trace of snow on frozen ground, ponds frozen, streams open. Thirteen observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 48 (22.5 on foot, 25.5 by car). Total party-miles 281.5 (18.5 on foot, 263 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 8,209.

This count has a noticeable paucity of raptors, both in terms of numbers of individuals and species. Only Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels were found and these were in lower numbers than usual. One feeder watcher reports an American Kestrel is often at her feeder taking small birds, so there may be an actual food shortage. On a more positive note, there is an abundance of wild fruits, such as red cedar cones, hackberry, poison ivy, honeysuckle and bitter sweet which is holding large flocks of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings in our area. Blue Jays are numerous, feeding on the abundant acorn crop. Except for a late-lingering Gray Catbird, other species seem representative. House Finches continue their unprecedented increase.

Observers: Charles Bowers, W. H. Brown, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Howard Jones (compiler), Jeff Jones, Robert Morris, Ken Rollins, Debbie and Tim Williams, Jim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1977.) Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 26°F. to 48°F.; wind E, 5-15 m.p.h. Streams open and full, some ice on ponds. Four observers in 2-4 parties. Total party-hours 24.5 (13.5 on foot, 11 by car). Total party-miles 122 (12 on foot, 110 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 2,351.

This is a good count for the Owen County area that we census. Most expected species were found in usual numbers with the exception of raptors. Only Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels were seen and their numbers were low. A Wild Turkey had been seen leaving its roost the morning of our count at Kleber by a hunter we encountered. Wild Turkeys were introduced at Kleber a few years ago and apparently have become established according to reports.

Observers: Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Howard Jones (compiler but not participant), Daryl Michael and Tim Towles.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church and Tates Creek Road.) Habitat farmland and residential. Dec. 17; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 26°F. to 35°F.; wind E, 10-35 m.p.h. Thirty-five observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 76 (26 on foot, 50 by car). Total party-miles 278 (18 on foot, 260 by car). Total species 81; total individuals 16,346.

Observers: Brad Andres, Sarah Andres, Mary Barr, Earl Boggs, Ann Bradly, Eugene Bradly, Skip Call, Rose Canon, Manton Cornett, Ruth Davis, Edward DeMoll, Margy DeMoll, Ron Duncan, Harold Faulconer, Jean Flynn, Mike Flynn, Johnathan Glixon, Ginnie Guthrie, Terri Koontz, Betty Maxson, Robert Morris (compiler), Carol Pickett, Glenn Raliegh, Nikki Rothwell, Ed Seiler, Lewis Shain, Jo Stofer, Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, Andrew Uterhart, Marion Uterhart, Glen Wells, Tim Williams, Jim Wilson and Bernice Woods.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat 23% water/edge, 6% urban, 7% cultivated, 35% field/fence, 23% woodland edge, and 6% feeder. Dec. 17; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp., 20°F. to 30°F.; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Twenty-eight observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 137.50 (47.25 on foot, 90.25 by car). Total party-miles 830.50 (47.25 on foot, 783.25 by car). Total species 71; total individuals 15,675.

Observers: Bob Corcoran, Lois Corcoran, Naomi Cox, Andy Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Scott Eklund, Virginia Eklund, Tobin and Mrs. Tom Foster, John Gower, JoAnn Hamm, Mike Hamm, Morton Hoaglund, Bill Johnston, J. W. Kemper, Chuck Kohler, F. W. Loetscher, Dan MacDonald, Dwayne Maddox, Jack Newton, John B. Nichols, Herb Petijean, Margaret Rinstidt, Joe Russell, Chris Strecker, Charles Vahlkamp, Maynard VanHorn and Greg Wagner.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, Ky.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 30%, farmland and fields 30%, streams and river 35% and residential 5%. Dec. 17; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 22°F. to 24°F.; wind W, 10-15 m.p.h. There was 0.3 inches of snow. Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 33 (10 on foot, 18 by car, 5 by boat). Total party-miles 248 (7 on foot, 235 by car, 6 by boat). Total species 54; total individuals 2,571.

Waterfowl were well represented this year, while overall numbers of birds were somewhat low, particularly raptors. The highlight was the sighting of an adult wing-tagged immature Bald Eagle near Big Bone by the Caminiti party.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Lonnie Fields, Darlena Graham, Carolyn Johnson, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), Chuck Schneider, Carmen Schulte, and Tommy Stephens. Feeder watchers were Pat Carroll, Marjorie Hill and Lynda McNeely.

WARSAW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Warsaw Courthouse.) Habitat river shore 35%, open field and farmland 30%, woodland and forest edge 30% and residential 5%. Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 26°F. to 41°F.; wind SW, 5-10 m.p.h. Heavy fog during the morning hours. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24.5 (9 on foot, 15.5 by car). Total party-miles 264 (3.5 on foot, 260.5 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 3,181.

The Lapland Longspur was identified by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. in a flock of Horned Larks. The Bald Eagle was a wing-tagged immature found at the Craig's Creek Marina and may have been the same bird found on the Burlington count. Gull numbers were determined by a count of their evening roost.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Tommy Stephens.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Grapevine Creek.) Habitat deciduous woodlands, fields and reclaimed surface mines. Dec. 31; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky sunny; 30°F. to 50°F; wind calm. Very pleasant day. One observer in 1 party. Total party-hours 6 (5 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 25 (5 on foot, 20 by car). Total species 25; total individuals 130.

Observer: Don Spencer (compiler).

WEST LIBERTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 37, 55' N; 83, 15' W.) Habitat woods, open fields, roadways, river bottoms. Jan. 2; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky morning overcast, clearing in p.m.; temp. 22°F. to 32°F.; wind 0 m.p.h. Dense fog until 12:30 p.m. Four observers in 2 parties (one at feeder). Total party-hours 12 (8 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 60 (12 on foot, 48 by car). Total species 42; total individuals 880.

One observer was at a home feeder. Four hours were spent owling.

Observers: Garry Lee Elam (compiler), Mary K. Elam, Orville Litteral and Francis Peyton.

FIELD NOTES

A UNIQUE HABITAT FOR RAPTORS IN SOUTHERN OHIO COUNTY

Owls have always fascinated me. And so I was impressed with the number of Short-Eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) that Brenda and Tony Eaden had reported seeing in February and early March, 1988 (*Ky Warbler*, Vol. 64, pg. 50). Since this location in Southern Ohio County is so close to our property at Falls of the Rough, Kentucky I decided to investigate the area further because I was interested in discovering the fall arrival dates of the Short-Eared Owls.

I called the Eadens and together we visited the area on November 12. I was impressed with the habitat which is a reclaimed strip mine area owned by the Peabody Coal Company. The area consists of approximately 300 acres of rolling, hilly country with various types of grasses. The hills are terraced to prevent erosion. Rectangular bales of straw are staked on the hillsides which also have horizontal ditches to impede erosion. Ditches that have washed vertically have been filled with large crushed stone. In the valleys are areas that contain water and marshy land. There are several lakes surrounding this acreage. On the surface of the hills are scattered shrubby growth. In the distance are tall second growth trees.

On November 12 the Eadens and I found no Short-Eared Owls but were surprised to find a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) that flew directly over our car. Our next exciting bird was larger than a Kestrel, had pointed shaped wings, buffy-colored and streaked body. It was lighter than an immature Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). We discussed the fact that this bird could possibly have been a Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) but without a state record we thought that better observations and, possibly a photograph, would be needed to substantiate this record. Although I have seen Prairie Falcons in Illinois, Indiana, and more recently (January, 1988) in Arizona I did not feel that we had an adequate look to definitely

identify it. My husband, who photographs birds, plans to "capture" this bird on film. It was of special interest to find five Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*), of which one was a dark phase, six Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and four Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*). All four Harriers were males.

On November 25, Dr. Herbert Clay and I went to this area and observed two Short-Eared Owls at 4:45 C.S.T. At approximately the same time we watched 15 Northern Harriers circling a tall grassy area and, one by one, they dropped into the grass. We stayed at least thirty minutes longer and they never appeared again. Of these 15 Harriers six or eight were males.

On November 27, despite rain and drizzle, Alita Wilson joined me on a visit to the area. We arrived about noon and soon found 10 to 15 Short-Eared Owls flying over the area, perched on bales of straw, on large boulders or hidden in the tall grass. We heard them making their "hissing and quacking" calls whenever an intruder hawk or owl came near. One Short-Eared Owl, on two occasions, flapped its wings together under its body and then flew very high in the sky. As far as I know this is the largest concentration to be reported. Robert M. Mengel, in his *Birds of Kentucky*, 1965, page 281, mentions that he saw nine or 10 Short-Eared Owls in Eastern Jefferson County late in October of 1933.

Since this present large number of owls was found I felt that I would like to share it with others and so I initiated a bird alert. Eighteen people arrived and were delighted to see, on Saturday, December 3, such a large concentration of raptors in such a small area. We also saw Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks and American Kestrels.

I have subsequently visited this place many times and with each visit I have been rewarded with good numbers of raptors. Since my husband and I are spending more time at Big Pond Sanctuary near this site, I am planning, with the Eadens, to study this area and hope to learn more about the habits of these birds of prey.

In addition to the interesting raptors, the nearby lakes attract hundreds of geese and ducks. Land birds are also of interest, especially the Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*), which may be a source of food for some of these species.

—MRS. HERBERT L. CLAY, JR., 434 Mallard Creek Road, Louisville 40207.

FIRST RECORD OF A SELASPHORUS HUMMINGBIRD IN KENTUCKY

Over the past ten years, there has been a dramatic increase in the popularity of feeding hummingbirds in the eastern United States. As a result of this trend (either wholly or in part), there has been a substantial increase in the number of records for vagrant western hummingbird species, most notably members of the genus *Selasphorus*, and in particular the Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*). In the 1980's nearly all states surrounding Kentucky have had reports of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds. Most positively identified individuals have proven to be of the widespread western species of the northern Rockies, the Rufous Hummingbird. However, a small percentage of positively identified birds have turned out to be other species including the Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*), which is generally indistinguishable from the Rufous in the field.

The typical pattern of occurrence of these vagrants is for occasional birds (usually adult males) to show up in August or September followed by larger numbers (usually immatures) from late September into November. In addition, it is not uncommon for an individual to remain at a feeder once it has arrived, even after our numerous Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) have departed for the wintering grounds. A vast majority of these vagrants are immatures, which are not noticeably different in appearance from female and immature Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at first glance. For this reason, it is suspected that at least some are overlooked, and it is even possible that most hummers reported after the middle of October are immature *Selasphorus*. Fall hummingbirds should always be scrutinized with the possibility of these rarities in mind, *especially* after the first of October.

During 1987, unusual numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported in the Louisville area into the latter half of October, and birds were observed at several locations as late as the 25th. One of these was the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williams of Jeffersontown, an eastern suburb of Louisville. As of mid-October, there were still at least a couple of hummers the Williams' assumed to be Ruby-throateds regularly visiting the feeders in their yard. When the end of the month rolled around, a single hummer was still present. It remained in the area through November and into late December, and on Christmas Eve 1987, in a quandary as to what to do about their faithful visitor and the impending cold weather, Mrs. Williams called the Louisville Zoo who referred her call to me. Immediately upon hearing their predicament, I went over to the Williams' home and within several minutes, as I had suspected, I was observing Kentucky's first reported *Selasphorus* hummer.

The bird was consistent in every way with immatures of the very similar Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds. The back, nape and crown were a golden-green, with the upper tail coverts sparsely spotted with rufous feathers. The underparts were whitish with a strong buffy or rufous wash on the flanks and undertail coverts. The throat was streaked with darkish markings and dotted with an occasional dark feather. The wings were blackish and the rectrices were rather short with bright rufous color seemingly on all and obvious white tips on the outer three pairs. The legs and bill were dark. The bird frequently gave a sharp 'chip' note characteristic of this group, a call that I became quite familiar with four years ago when a similar bird appeared in southern Indiana. The combination of these characters eliminated the Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*S. platycerus*) from consideration, but identification remained inconclusive because of the subtleties in distinction between Rufous and Allen's. This identification is usually based on measurements of the widths of several tail feathers since the two species are generally indistinguishable in the field. Even adult males can be difficult to identify, as some male Rufous Hummingbirds have greenish backs. The only readily identifiable birds are adult male Rufous Hummingbirds with entirely rufous backs or immature males with rufous-colored feathers on the upper back (B. Peterjohn/N. Newfield, pers. comm.).

Over the course of the following weeks, many people were able to view this rare wanderer, and much discussion surrounded its predicament. At the suggestion of Mrs. Williams, it was decided to leave the bird in a natural state and hope for the best. Vitamin and protein supplements were obtained from a local veterinary supply store to add to the bird's sugar water, and additional cover in the form of several small pine trees were placed near the feeders for the bird.

Based on several conversations with Nancy Newfield, who has had extensive experience with wintering hummingbirds in Louisiana, I expected the bird to succumb quickly to the winter's frigid temperatures, but with Mrs. Williams' persistence and care, the bird survived three spells of single digit temperatures and several light snows into early February. On February 5, 1988, the bird was at the feeders nearly the entire day as a fourth onslaught of cold weather bore down on the Ohio Valley. On the morning of February 6, the bird did not return to feed, and presumably it finally was not able to sustain its metabolism overnight.

Several aspects to these observations are noteworthy. First, it appears that the bird was in the process of overwintering when it disappeared. Even though the temperatures were well below optimal for the bird, it remained in the vicinity rather than move on in October or November. This is a tendency that has been observed in numerous locations in the southeastern U.S. Secondly, the bird was able to withstand temperatures substantially colder than temperatures that have decimated hummingbird populations in southern Louisiana, where a prolonged period of subfreezing weather killed most birds on at least one occasion (N. Newfield, pers. comm.). This individual survived three different spells of overnight temperatures in the single digits (lowest being 2°F.) and several days of no higher than 15°F, with clouds and light breezes. During the coldest period in January, temperatures remained at or below freezing for *nine* straight days, with highs in the hi-teens and lows in the single digits for *three* straight days during the worst! How this tiny mite was able to survive such extremes is unclear, but it is certain that without the sugar water and supplements, this bird would not have lasted as long. One would think that the bird would have had to feed incessantly, relying on the supply of sugar water for food while enduring the cold temperatures, but typically it fed only once every fifteen minutes in all but the coldest of weather, and it was often absent from the feeders and even the yard for long periods, even in subfreezing temperatures. On warmer, sunny days, Mrs. Williams noticed that the bird busily foraged for insects throughout the yard for long periods.

It might be worthwhile to mention that the ethical question of attracting these hummers to feeders in the eastern U.S. where they are likely to perish has been the subject of much discussion over the past few years. Really, it appears that the matter is one of little consequence. By the time these vagrant birds have reached our area to find a hummingbird feeder, their fate has long since been determined. The attraction of our feeders to these wanderers really does nothing more than call our attention to the plight of this small percentage of birds that may be born with a faulty directional instinct. It appears that these birds simply migrate in the wrong direction, and when their migratory "urge" ceases sometime in October or November, they are "stuck" wherever they have ended up. Without artificial food sources, these birds would likely perish long before winter's icy grip was upon us. Also, it is unlikely that by allowing one of these vagrants to persist into or survive a winter in the eastern U.S., we are laying the groundwork for this tendency to increase in the population as a whole. For every hummer that finds a feeder in the eastern U.S., there are probably many more that perish before they are able to find such a reliable food source. According to Newfield, returns of banded hummingbirds over more than one winter in Louisiana are not unknown, but of hundreds of birds now banded, only a handful have returned in successive years. This, in itself, would tend to suggest that most of these individuals either die or go in a more normal direction the following year.

Also, many people worry that by leaving out a hummingbird feeder into October they are at risk in keeping a Ruby-throated Hummingbird around later than it should stay, but this theory is unfounded. Sooner or later they depart, whether it be in mid-September or late October. This is like trying to keep Evening Grosbeaks around in summer by continuing to put out sunflower seeds — sooner or later they all leave to go north! There is not a single documented record of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird failing to depart in the fall because of an attraction to a feeder at our latitude. In fact, reliable winter records of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Louisiana are quite rare, even though most could survive the average winter there. So it would seem that one need not worry about leaving out a hummingbird feeder in the fall until all interested hummers have departed.

This represents the first documented record of a *Selasphorus* hummingbird for Kentucky, although two November records referred to as Ruby-throated in the literature may well pertain to this group or other western vagrant species (see Monroe, *et al.* 1988. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, pp. 34-35).

As a matter of coincidence, it should be noted that the *Selasphorus* hummingbird wasn't the only unexpected visitor to the Williams' yard during the winter of 1987-88. An Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) visited their sugar water feeders daily from January 3 to March 10, even after the hummer had disappeared. When the bird first appeared, it had an injured foot and was holding one wing in an abnormal posture as if it was injured or broken although it appeared to fly well. By late February it was looking better and must be presumed to have successfully overwintered. Although this species is not uncommon along the Gulf coast in winter and has been observed frequenting sugar water feeders in other areas, this represents the fourth winter record for Kentucky and the first to be observed frequenting an artificial food source. This individual was very brightly colored with a strong yellowish wash to its underparts and a vivid greenish back, and it is possible that it represented one of the western subspecies, making its occurrence in Kentucky, easily as noteworthy as the hummingbird's.

I would like to thank Nancy and Paul Newfield and Bruce Peterjohn for their review of this manuscript and many helpful comments.

— BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

UNUSUAL UTILIZATIONS OF CAVE ENTRANCES BY EASTERN PHOEBES

The Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) is a fairly common to common transient and summer resident in Kentucky. The species nests under both artificial and natural ledges including bridges, building eaves, rock outcrops and cave entrances. In addition, a few phoebes are regularly recorded in the state in winter, usually found along protected streams and lake margins where they presumably are able to subsist on emerging aquatic insects. During cave inventory work over the past few years, phoebe nests have been found in virtually every moderately large cave entrance investigated. In addition, two very interesting observations have been made.

On the evening of 2 December 1987, Palmer-Ball, MacGregor, Bill Hendricks, Tim Towles and David Yancy visited Blowing Cave along Buck

Creek in eastern Pulaski County. We arrived at the cave at approximately 8:30 p.m., some three hours after sunset. Air temperature was approximately 35°F. and warm air was rising out of the cave entrance. As we entered the cave we were surprised to find an Eastern Phoebe roosting on a used phoebe nest a few feet inside the entrance and well within the warm air current. The bird was frightened from the nest by our lights, and it flew out of the cave where it settled into a nearby tree.

While phoebes are known to commonly use the entrances of caves for nesting during summer, this appears to be the first documented occurrence of the species using a cave as a winter roosting site in Kentucky. Such accounts are not apparent in the literature, and it is unknown whether or not this behavior has been observed in other areas. The warm air in caves would seem to present a logical attraction to such a species, and it would not be surprising to see this occurrence more often.

Earlier on the same day, we found a phoebe nest in an unusual location in the vicinity of Cave Creek in southern Pulaski County. The nest was located on a small ledge in a *vertical* cave opening of approximately six feet in diameter that opened to the surface at the top of a woodland slope and dropped straight down approximately thirty feet into a large room. The nest was located approximately eight to ten feet beneath the entrance on the forest floor. Thus, in order for the bird to reach the nest, it had to drop down 'swift-like' into the cave entrance some eight to ten feet!

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 407 Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, and JOHN R. MacGREGOR, Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Nongame Wildlife Program, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The Spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at Barren River State Park on April 28-30. Be sure to make your reservations for room accommodations early. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to enjoy good birding with good friends. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairperson, Virginia Kingsolver, Route 1, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311.

TAX TIME, A TIME TO HELP!

Help protect Kentucky's endangered species and the natural areas in which they live. Remember to contribute to the Nongame Wildlife/Natural Areas Fund on your Kentucky tax form. This fund is divided equally between the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Nongame Program.

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Phillipe Roca for the photograph of the Spotted Sandpiper.

THE WINTER SEASON, 1988-89

ANNE L. STAMM

The weather for the winter season (December-February) was unusually warm for the most part. In fact, the temperature averaged 9.1 degrees above normal in Louisville for the month of January, and was the warmest January since 1950, according to the National Weather Service. The first few days of February were more like April weather as the thermometer hit a high of 66 degrees at Louisville on February 1. However, on February 6 a cold front moved in and Covington reported the coldest overnight low in the state at 9 degrees. Other lows included 11 degrees at Paducah, 14 at Lexington and Bowling Green, 11 at Louisville and 25 at London. This change in the weather pattern brought icy conditions for a few days, and land birds began coming to feeding stations all across the state. Less than an inch of snow fell during the period. The cold spell was short-lived since on February 11 the temperature was back to a high of 51 degrees.

Despite the warm weather a number of rarities were recorded such as the Tundra Swan, Prairie Falcon, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Black-legged Kittiwake. Also, a large number of Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls was recorded. It was an interesting season.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; KDFWR = Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Loons through Herons — A few Common Loons lingered into January with three present at the Lexington Reservoir, Fayette County on January 1 (BA); one at Hamlin, Calloway County on December 8 to January 3 (CP); and one as late as January 28 at Lake Pewee, Hopkins County (BBC, KC). There were fewer Pied-billed Grebes in late December than during the same period last year. Small numbers, however, did winter at Wysox Lake, southern Ohio County and at Lake Pewee (KC, AW, and JH, respectively). As many as ± 100 Horned Grebes remained at Boyd's Branch on the west side of Kentucky Lake, north of Hamlin during early December, but numbers decreased during the month and only 12 were observed on January 4 (CP, JTE); one was still present on Honker Bay of Lake Barkley in LBL on January 22 (BPB) and two on the Falls of the Ohio area, Jefferson County on February 5 (DP). A single Double-crested Cormorant was present at MCFH on December 22 (FB); nine to 11 lingered along the Ohio River at Louisville and Shippingport Island, Jefferson County during December and January (m. ob.), with nine still present on January 25 (LR); two at Honker Lake in LBL on January 25-March 1 (CP); and an immature bird remained at Wysox Lake throughout the period and was last seen on February 26 (KC). Great Blue Herons were fairly common in western Kentucky, but widely scattered, probably due to the high water. The birds were found along lakes, ditches, rivers, and ponds and almost never more than one to three in any location (CP). Other sightings were: four along the Ohio River in Meade County on December 17, where they are seldom seen during the winter months (HS, S, FS); 10 below McAlpine Dam on January 25 (LR); five at Wysox

Lake on January 28 (KC, BBC); one there on February 12 (KC, AW); up to 17 per day at Dix Dam, Mercer County (FL, WK); and one wintered at BPS, Grayson County (KC). A single Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen at Shippingport Island as late as December 10 (S, BBC); and two were reported on the Louisville CBC, December 18.

Swans through Geese — Two Tundra Swans visited Dix Dam, Mercer County on January 8 and 9 (WK and FL, respectively), and up to eight Mute Swans were on the Wysox Lake in early December (BPB). Five Greater White-fronted Geese were observed at BWMA, Ballard County during the period (CW); and "local residents perfectly described" one with Snow Geese near BWMA on February 11 (*fide* BPB). The goose population at BWMA peaked at 70,000 in late December (CW). Snow Geese peaked at 15,000 at BWMA (CW); and the 5-10,000 that were on private land just off BWMA on February 12 may have been part of the BWMA flock (BPB, DP, DE). Also, 11 were seen at Wysox Lake on December 1 (DP), up to 13 there on and off during December and January (KC, BPB); five still there on February 12 (KC, AW); and two to three birds wintered near the large body of water at J. J. Goggins at the south edge of Boyle County (FL, WK). An interesting find was the five Ross' Geese which were studied carefully with the flock of Snow Geese near BWMA on February 12 (BPB, DP, DE). Canada Geese were widespread during December and peaked at BWMA with 50,000 to 55,000 (CW). Canadas wintered at Wysox Lake and ranged in numbers from 100 to 800 during the period (KC, BBC, S, AW, FS); at least 600 wintered in the Danville area (Dix Dam and at J. T. Goggins — FL, WK). The large flocks flying over Glasgow, Barren County during the last week of February were likely migrants moving northward (RS); smaller numbers (2-7) were noted in mid-December and early January at BPS (KC), Madisonville, Hopkins County (JH), Lexington Reservoir, Fayette County (BA), and Long Run County Park, Jefferson County (S, FS).

Ducks — The duck population was low during the early part of the winter months, but numbers increased markedly when the northward movement took place in late February, e.g., by December 1 about 4000 were at BWMA while by March 1 some 8000 to 10,000 were present (CW). Wood Ducks were in lower numbers this year compared with last year, but American Black Ducks showed some increase on the Louisville CBC with a count of 344 — highest since 1981 CBC. A high count of ± 300 American Black Ducks at Bailey Hollow, Kentucky Lake, Calloway County on January 13 was encouraging (CP); normal numbers were at Dix Dam (FL, WK); but other sightings were of only two to 13 birds. Mallards were well distributed across the state with a high count of 75 at Lake Pewee on December 19 (JH); 50 at Lexington Reservoir on January 1 (BA) and 44 (new arrivals) at Smith Pond, Oldham County on February 18 (S, FS). There were few reports of Northern Pintails but a high count of 98+ at Dix Dam on February 25 was an all-time high there (FL, WK); 20 were recorded at the Brown Power Plant, Mercer County on February 25 (BPB, DP); three noted at Wysox Lake on January 21 (BPB); and 30+ on a small pond near MCFH, Bath County on January 13 (FB). A number of unusual winter records of the Northern Shoveler were reported: a pair near Danville, Boyle County, December 17 and four in a slough near Harrodsburg, Mercer County on January 13 and five there on January 17 (WK, FL); and more than 20 at Bailey Hollow on January 13 (CP); and

eight at Lexington Reservoir, January 1 (BA). In addition to CBC reports, winter Gadwall sightings included more than 700 at Bailey Hollow on January 13 — a remarkable record (CP); other January and February records were in low numbers (1-5 birds, m. ob.). A total of 25 Canvasbacks had reached Lake Pewee by December 6 with a peak of 42 birds there on January 7 (JH); more than 50 at Honker and Hematite Lakes in LBL on January 13 and 60 there on March 1 (CP). Redheads were scarce with only a few observed on the lakes in western Kentucky and along the Ohio River at Louisville (BPB), and at Dix Dam (FL, WK), but 150-175 were seen at Cave Run Lake, Rowan County on February 25, where they are seldom observed (FB). Ring-necked Ducks were present in small numbers in most areas, but a high count of 850 was made at Lake Pewee, December 13 (JH) and 153 were still there on February 1 (JH); more than 60 noted at Honker and Hematite Lakes on January 25 (CP); and 100 was the high count at Cave Run Lake on the Rowan/Morgan County line (L. Kornman, A. Surmont *et al. fide* FB). A few Greater Scaups were reported from central Kentucky with five at Lexington Reservoir on January 1 (BA); five at Towhead Island, Louisville on January 21 (LR); small numbers along the Ohio River at Louisville from mid-December to the end of February with a peak of 12 at Towhead Island on February 5 (BPB); and five at the latter island on February 18 (S, FS). Lesser Scaups continued to be scarce with only a total of 61 birds reported on the 23 CBCs; a flock of 30-35 at Towhead Island on February 18 was the highest number reported (S, FS). An Oldsquaw, a winter visitant, was found on Kentucky Lake on the LBL CBC on December 17 (BPB, DP); and one, a female, on the Lexington Reservoir on January 1 (BA). Three Surf Scoters (females or immatures) were noted on Lake Barkley above the dam on December 9 (BPB). Common Goldeneyes were fairly common on the western Kentucky lakes during the CBC period with 330 on the LBL CBC, and about 50 on Honker Lake on January 25 (CP), but elsewhere they were present in low numbers. Buffleheads were present in larger numbers than usual with 100 at Cave Run Lake on February 25 (FB), about 30 at Honker and Hematite Lakes on January 15 (CP), and a peak of about 35 at Honker Lake/Bay on January 22 (BPB); elsewhere three to 12 birds. Hooded Mergansers were not as numerous as last year, but a group of 250 was observed on Honker Bay of Lake Barkley in LBL on January 22 (BPB) and \pm 60 on Honker and Hematite Lakes on January 25 (CP); and a few at Dix Dam (FL) were the only ones reported. Common Mergansers were not present in large numbers this winter; peak of "about a dozen birds" in the vicinity of Silo Overlook on Lake Barkley on January 22 (BPB); eight males at MCFH on February 6 (FB); five to eight males at Cave Run Lake, February 10-24 (FB); a female on the Ohio River at Louisville on January 10 (LR); and a few at Dix Dam (no date given FL, WK). Red-breasted Mergansers were scarce with only two birds listed on the 23 CBCs, but 25 were noted on the Lexington Reservoir on January 1 (BA); two females off Towhead Island on January 21 (LR); and a few at Dix Dam during the period (WK, FL). Ruddy Ducks were reported from only four locations: LBL, Louisville, Lexington and Lake Pewee, with the highest number — 40 birds — at the latter location on December 19 (JH).

Hawks — A few Black Vultures were present during the period: two at BPS on December 26 (KC); one to six in the Cool Springs area of southern Ohio County from late December through February 12 (BPB, KC, AW, BBC); 10 in late February along I64 in eastern Jefferson County

(BPB) and 27 in the vicinity of Bondurant, Fulton County on January 18 (CP). Turkey Vultures were in normal numbers. The January eagle survey totaled 207 Bald Eagles and one Golden Eagle (D. Yancy). Twenty-four to 26 Bald Eagles were present at BWMA during February, also a new nest was observed there, and another new nest was built at Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area, Ballard County and attended by a pair of adults in February (CW, L. Andrews). Also, TVA personnel reported an active nest in LBL with "incubation suspected" in late February (*vide* BPB). Other Bald Eagle sightings were: single adult birds at Lake Pewee, December 10 (*vide* JH); West Point, Hardin County, January 7 (S, FS); west of Leitchfield, Grayson County, January 8 (JP); at least one adult and two immatures on Peabody land south of Cool Springs in southern Ohio County at various times from late December to early February (BPB); and adults and immatures at MCFH, from December 22 through February 24, with a high count of three adults and eight immatures on February 10 (FB). In addition, KDFWR personnel reported Bald Eagles along the Licking River (Bath/Rowan County line) and along Licking River adjacent to MCFH from January 5-19, with a high count of two adults and five immatures on January 19 (L. Kornman, A. Surmont, F. Howes, T. Slone). A wing-tagged immature Bald Eagle was observed a number of times in Rowan County during January (FB, LK *et al.*). It is quite possible that there was some duplication of the birds at MCFM and those along the Licking River. Northern Harriers were fairly numerous on the reclaimed strip mine land south of Cool Springs in southern Ohio County, with a maximum of 25 or more there December through February (KC); a total of 62 birds on the Kentucky CBCs of which 40 were on the Paradise CBC (southern Ohio and Muhlenberg counties); two birds wintered near Short Creek, Grayson County (KC); three in Gallatin County, December 31 (LMc); an immature at Lake Pewee on January 17 (JH); and a male in Breckinridge County on February 5 (KC). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were present in numbers similar to those of last year (m. ob.). An immature Northern Goshawk was trapped, by a falconer, on October 28 in southern Boone County. This record was reported by Lee McNeely who did not see the bird in time to be included in the Fall Migration Season, 1988. Rough-legged Hawks were fairly numerous on the reclaimed strip mine area in southern Ohio County, with a maximum of 15 during the winter period (KC); also numerous on strip mine areas in Muhlenberg County (BPB); elsewhere, few were reported, e.g., one to two birds in each of five counties (m. ob.), and three birds in Clark County (BA). An immature Golden Eagle was observed feeding on a deer carcass along Wilson Creek, on the southern border of Bernheim Forest, January 2 (DP, Larry Sparks); another immature bird was shot in Todd County near Sharon Grove, and later died (*vide* BPB). American Kestrels were fairly common, especially in western Kentucky (MM, CP) and in Grayson and Ohio counties (KC). The bird of the season was truly the Prairie Falcon. The bird was first sighted flying over reclaimed strip mine land in southern Ohio County on November 12, although at the time it was not definitely identified, due to the fleeting glimpse of the bird (KC, Tony and Brenda Eaden). Then on December 16 Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Donald Parker had a brief look at the elusive bird and identified it as a Prairie Falcon. On December 26 on the Paradise CBC Brainard Palmer-Ball and Doxie Noonan and others were able to observe, although very briefly, this rare falcon. Confirmation, of the record, however, was made on January

28 when the bird was found perched and Mark Monroe photographed it while his father, Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., studied all its characteristic markings. This confirms the first state record of the Prairie Falcon for Kentucky.

Coots through Shorebirds — This was a highly remarkable year for American Coots, especially in western Kentucky. It was estimated that there were not less than 50,000 and "not impossibly a million" from Paris Landing, Tennessee to Kentucky Dam during the period (CP); 2500 on Kentucky Lake within sight of the dam on January 22-February 12 (BPB); "nearly 1000" at Boyd's Branch on January 8 and 500 on January 9 (JTE, CP); and numerous on Lake Pewee from December through early February, with a high count of 833 on December 6 (JH). A late movement of Sandhill Cranes passed over east Louisville on December 5 when many persons reported seeing flocks of several hundred birds (BPB); some 350+ flew over Fox Harbor, Louisville along Hwy. 42 on December 6 (KC); other late stragglers included 26 on Warren/Barren County line on December 8 (JK). Local residents near BWMA described seeing two Sandhill Cranes with the Snow Geese on February 11 which were probably early migrants (BPB); two were present at BWMA on March 1 (CW). Ten Common Snipe were present at Lake Pewee on January 17 (JH). An American Woodcock was heard calling as early as January 21 in northern LBL (BPB); the species was fairly conspicuous during late January until the colder weather set in (BPB); courtship flights were observed February 17-18 in a rural area seven miles north of Murray, Calloway County (MM).

Gulls — The mild weather influenced Bonaparte's Gulls to remain throughout the greater part of the winter. A flock of 48 birds passed over the Paradise Steam Plant on December 26, an unusual record for Muhlenberg County (BPB); 69 were on the lakes for the LBL CBC and 35 on the Calloway County CBC; one to 11 birds at the Falls of the Ohio, January 3 and 7 (LR, BPB, respectively); then, on February 4, an unusually large group was counted on the Ohio River at Louisville, with at least three groups of birds combining for a total of 445+ from the Falls of the Ohio to Six-mile Island (BPB); at least 250 were still there the following day (BPB); and nearly 700 birds were observed on Kentucky Lake about a mile or two above the dam as they gathered to roost ("there were probably in excess of 1000 birds there") on February 12 (BPB); many appeared to remain on the lakes throughout February; and a few were observed at Dix Dam (WK). As usual, the Ring-billed Gull was the predominant species on the lakes in western Kentucky, with an estimated 10,000 present on January 13 and 25 (CP); numbers increased in early February and in counting the birds at the roost on Kentucky Lake in groups of "100" Palmer-Ball came up with "nearly 13,000" on February 12; a peak of 350 at Markland Dam, Gallatin County on December 31 (LMc); low numbers at the Falls of the Ohio with 150+ on February 17 (S, FS); increased numbers at Dix Dam (WK, FL); a high count of 150 at MCFH on February 24 (FB); and 75-100 at Cave Run Lake throughout February (FB). As expected, Herring Gulls were in low numbers; approximately 75 around Kentucky Dam and 50 or more at Barkley Dam, with a peak of about 300+ at the roost on Kentucky Lake on February 12 (BPB); 10 to 11 at Louisville (m. ob.); few at Dix Dam (WK, FL); and two at MCFH on February 10 (FB). Despite the warm winter two Thayer's Gulls were reported: a first winter bird was observed at Barkley Dam on December 9,

then probably the same bird observed again at Kentucky Dam on the LBL CBC on December 17 (BPB); and again at Kentucky Dam on February 12 (BPB, DP, DE); and a third-year bird was closely observed at Barkley Dam on January 22 (BPB, DE, H. Chambers, S. Leedom). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted on Kentucky Lake on January 22 (BPB, DE) and also observed on January 28 (BM, MMo). A single Glaucous Gull was discovered at Smithland, Livingston County on February 25 (CP). The Ohio River had gone out of its banks and came up to US 60 south and north of Smithland. The Glaucous Gull, with several hundred Ring-billed Gulls, was about 300 yards from the highway on the edge of Smithland. A possible adult Great Black-backed Gull on Kentucky Lake above the dam on February 12 (BPB, DE) awaits review of the photograph. A documented, first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake on the Falls of the Ohio on February 17 and 18 was noteworthy (DP, DS, respectively).

Owls — Great Horned Owls were in normal numbers. There were no reports of the Snowy Owl by K. O. S. members, however, one was reported to John MacGregor of the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources by an "eagle volunteer." The bird was well-described to Mr. MacGregor and observed on February 12 and 13 along Interstate 75 in northern Scott County at mile marker 132 and 138-139 (*vide* BPB). At present no other information is available. This was an excellent year for Short-eared Owls in Kentucky. Birds were reported from Montgomery, Ohio, Marion, Daviess, Shelby, Muhlenberg, and Bourbon counties (m. ob.), but the greatest numbers were found in Ohio and Muhlenberg counties on some reclaimed strip mine land, with 31 as the high count in Ohio County on December 31 (KC) and a high of 11 near the Western Kentucky Parkway in eastern Muhlenberg County and at least 10 west of Paradise Steam Plant in eastern Muhlenberg County (no dates given BPB). The six or seven Short-eared Owls in Montgomery County (*vide* FK) and the five in Marion County (K. Prather *vide* BPB) were probably new county records. A single Saw-whet Owl was found in a Virginia Pine tree in eastern Muhlenberg County, approximately 2.0 miles north of Paradise on January 28 (BPB).

Kingfishers through Horned Larks — Belted Kingfishers were present in normal numbers. Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared on 15 of the 23 Mid-winter Bird Counts with a total of 99 birds. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were doing slightly better than last year. Eastern Phoebe's lingered well into late December since the species appeared on six CBCs, with a total of nine birds; one found in Bell County on February 3 was likely an early spring migrant (BPB). Perhaps due to the mild winter Horned Larks were up over the past two years (m. ob.).

Ravens through Shrikes — A pair of Common Ravens was seen and heard in Bad Branch State Nature Preserve, Letcher County on February 6 (Joyce Bender *vide* BPB). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce during the entire period. The species appeared on only seven CBCs with a total of 15 birds; two birds were seen in Muhlenberg County on February 11 (BPB, BBC); and one to two during the winter at a Danville feeder, Boyle County (FL), were the only ones reported. Brown Creepers were well distributed, but numbers were below last winter (m. ob.). Carolina Wrens were well distributed, but there were fewer birds listed on the CBCs than last year. Although observers failed to comment on the Eastern

Bluebird, numbers were up in most areas. Exceptional, large numbers of American Robins lingered well into late December; migrants were noted on February 4 when a flock of 200+ was seen feeding on holly berries in Oldham County (S, FS), and only 60 were present there on February 18 (S). Cedar Waxwings were unusually common in late December and well distributed. Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in lower numbers than last year, although the species appeared to be increasing in western Kentucky (CP).

Warblers through Finches — Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were again widely distributed and were in higher numbers on the CBCs than the previous year. A group of four Indigo Buntings lingered and was found "just over the Butler County line from southeastern Ohio County near Schultztown" on the Paradise CBC December 26 (BPB, DE). There were few comments on the sparrows. While American Tree Sparrows were reported as "common" in Gallatin County (LMc) there were almost no sightings in Rowan County (FB); small numbers were observed in Ohio, Muhlenberg, and Livingston counties (BPB). The species was listed on 11 CBCs, but in low numbers. Despite the warm weather Savannah Sparrows did not linger and only a few were seen in southern Ohio County and eastern Muhlenberg County in January (BPB) and three birds listed on the Lexington CBC. Song Sparrows were slightly above the winter of 1988 while Swamp Sparrows were down from the previous year. White-throated Sparrows were reported in good numbers across the state while it was felt numbers were low at Glasgow and Madisonville (RS, JH, respectively). A few Lapland Longspurs were observed in late December in southern Ohio County near Cool Springs and at least one noted with Horned Larks in southwestern Gallatin County on December 31 (BPB). Blackbirds were not numerous this winter. Migrating Red-winged Blackbirds began arriving on February 11 when approximately 5000+ were seen on farm land in eastern Muhlenberg County (BPB), and small groups of Brown-headed Cowbirds began appearing at feeding stations on February 6 and 17 (JH, S, respectively). Purple Finches were not numerous this winter and were in low numbers at scattered localities, with a high count of 25 birds at BPS on February 6 (KC). House Finches were again widespread and were more numerous at Berea than previously (AR, TR). Pine Siskins were very scarce. There were two reports of single birds: one bird fed on the window sill of the writer on February 8 (S) and one observed in Burlington in mid-December (LMc). The species was listed on three CBCs with a total of eight birds. American Goldfinches, however, were present in large numbers; 56 were counted at a Madisonville feeding station on February 17 (JH); and 40 were present at BPS during the period (KC). Evening Grosbeaks were practically absent, but they were numerous at a feeder in Madisonville during the period (*vide* BM); no others reported, with the exception of one bird on the LBL CBC and six on the Yelvington CBC.

Corrigenda — Two American Pelicans should be changed to two American White Pelicans (*Ky. War.* Vol. 65:3) and Rough-winged Swallows should be changed to Northern Rough-winged Swallows (*Ky. War.* Vol. 65:9). On the Mississippi Kite sightings change DP with sighting in Fulton County to DP with sighting in Ballard County (*Ky. War.* Vol. 65:6).

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FOOD HABITS OF KENTUCKY OWLS

ROBERT K. BROWN

The prey choices of the owls of Kentucky have been little studied. A few anecdotal reports are found in the literature (Funkhouser 1925, Fisher 1893, Pindar 1923, Lovell 1960, McNeely 1988), but no systematic investigation had been done prior to this one. The purpose of this research is to begin to understand the prey choices made by the owls of Kentucky.

METHODS

Pellets are the undigested, regurgitated remains of the meal of an owl. They often contain parts of the prey that can be used in prey identification.

Stomach contents of owls found dead, usually as a result of owl-motor vehicle collisions, were also used. Inclusion of stomach contents analysis is absolutely necessary to identify soft bodied prey such as caterpillars and earthworms, organisms which are completely digested and therefore missing from pellets.

The help of many professional and amateur ornithologists in finding both pellets and dead owls was invaluable. This help was solicited through notices in various state publications, including *The Kentucky Warbler*.

All owls and pellets examined were found in Kentucky between January, 1979 and June, 1981.

With few exceptions, mammalian remains were identified by the author with the aid of a reference collection of known skulls and mandibles. It was these skeletal elements that were most used in identification, since they are often the only taxonomically reliable skeletal elements. Insects were also identified for the most part by the author. Other prey items were identified with the help of several cooperating biologists.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sixty-three owls were found dead during this investigation, of which 41 had stomachs containing food. A total of 199 food items was found in these stomachs.

A total of 34 pellet samples was analyzed. Only pellets that were known to have come from a particular owl species were used. A total of 621 food items were identified from these pellets. The combined results from stomach content and pellet analysis yielded 820 food items, and these data are found in Table 1. Frequency of occurrence of food groups (insects, birds, mammals, etc.) is found in Table 2.

COMMON BARN-OWL (*Tyto alba*)

One stomach that contained one prey item and six pellet samples of this species were analyzed, which combined yielded a total of 124 food items. The relative rarity of this bird in Kentucky is evidenced by the fact that all of the pellet samples were from the same location in Carroll County. The dead owl was from Bath County.

No state-wide inferences can be drawn from such a small sample size. Nonetheless, 124 food items were identified (Table 1). Mammals composed 73% of this owl's diet, and 27% was avian prey (Table 2). This narrow specialization was shared only by the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). It should be noted that large populations of Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) and European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were present near the nest site under which most of the pellets of this species were found. This opportunism is common among many owl species (Fuller 1979).

So-called "pest" rodents (i.e., families Cricetidae and Muridae) and "blackbirds" (i.e., families Sturnidae and Icteridae, in part) composed 78% of this owl's diet. No poultry were found to be food for this owl and none of the food items were game animals.

The occurrence of the Southern Bog Lemming, *Synaptomys cooperi* in these samples represents a county record for that mammal (Robinson 1981) in Carroll County.

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (*Otus asio*)

The number of stomachs analyzed of this species was 23, the largest sample in this study. Stomachs for content analyses were obtained from owls collected in Breathitt, Clark, Clay, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Hart, Hopkins, Jefferson, Nelson, Ohio, Oldham, Owsley, Pulaski, Webster and Woodford counties. These stomachs yielded 175 food items.

Seven pellet samples were analyzed, representing the counties of Fayette, Hardin, Jefferson and Shelby. Sixty-nine food items were found. Together, stomachs and pellets had 244 food items.

Stomach content analysis provides the best opportunity to detect both soft and hard bodied prey. Thanks to the relatively large number of stomachs analyzed in this predator, and their wide distribution in the state, a fairly accurate picture of the diet of this owl was possible. Invertebrates composed 70% of the total prey detected. In particular, one stomach sample from Grayson County yielded 14 individuals of the caterpillar *Agrotis ypsilon*, the black cutworm, which is an agricultural pest.

In fact, 78% of all insects taken by this owl were Lepidoptera, and all but one of those was confirmed to be adult or larval Noctuid moths, a majority of which are nocturnal (Borror and White 1970). The activity periods of screech owls, while not strictly limited to periods of darkness, are mostly nocturnal (Burton 1973). The large representation of adult moths reinforce this observation.

The diet of the Eastern Screech Owl has been reported to vary widely with the geographic area and prey availability. In Tennessee, Turner and Dimmick (1981) found that screech owls consumed 5% mammals, 1% birds and 92% invertebrates. In Ohio, VanCamp and Henny (1975) found that 42% of 479 stomachs contained arthropods. Results of the same study indicated that 25% of food items found at nest boxes were mammals, and 71% were birds. In Michigan, Wilson (1938) found only 0.25% birds and 0.19% insects and 99.5% mammals among 1,549 food items of Eastern Screech Owls. These findings are testimony to the fact that this owl's diet varies considerably.

TABLE 1

COMBINED STOMACH CONTENTS AND PELLET ANALYSIS:

Actual numbers and percentages of food item (%)

within food item group by owl species

(n = number of food-containing stomachs and pellet samples).

| FOOD ITEM | COMMON BARN n = 7 | EASTERN SCREECH n = 30 | GREAT HORNED n = 22 | BARRED n = 15 | SHORT- EARED n = 1 | ALL SPECIES COMBINED n = 75 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Earthworm | | | | | | |
| <i>Eisenia foetida</i> | 1(100) | | | | | 1(100) |
| Spiders | | | | | | |
| 1. <i>Anthrodiaetus imicolor</i> | 1(6) | | | | | 1(6) |
| 2. Agelenidae spider | 1(6) | | | | | 1(6) |
| 3. <i>Pisammia mita</i> | 5(29) | | | | | 5(29) |
| 4. <i>Dolomedes</i> sp. | 2(14) | | | | | 2(14) |
| 5. Lycosidae spider | 2(12) | | | | | 2(12) |
| 6. <i>Lychosa pulchra</i> | 1(6) | | | | | 1(6) |
| 7. <i>Schizocosa saltatrix</i> | 1(6) | | | | | 1(6) |
| 8. <i>Trochosa avara</i> | 2(12) | | | | | 2(12) |
| 9. Unidentified spider | 2(12) | | | | | 2(12) |
| Isopod | | | | | | |
| <i>Porcellio scaber</i> | 1(100) | | | | | 1(100) |
| Crayfish | | | | | | |
| 1. Unidentified crayfish | | 1(100) | 1(20) | | | 1(14) |
| 2. <i>Cambarus ornatus</i> | | | 3(60) | | | 3(43) |
| 3. <i>Orconectes rusticus</i> | | | 1(20) | | | 1(14) |
| 4. <i>Fallicambarus fodiens</i> | | | | 2(100) | | 2(29) |
| Centipedes | | | | | | |
| 1. <i>Bothriophys multidentatus</i> | | 2(25) | | | | 2(25) |
| 2. <i>Lithobius forficatus</i> | | 1(13) | | | | 1(13) |
| 3. <i>Scolocryptops sexspinosus</i> | | 5(63) | | | | 5(63) |

Insects

| | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Arthropod (unidentified) | 3(2) | | 3(6) |
| 2. Orthoptera (unidentified) | 3(2) | | 3(6) |
| 3. Shorthorned grasshopper | 3(2) | | 3(6) |
| 4. Longhorned grasshopper | 4(3) | | 4(3) |
| 5. Wingless longhorned grasshopper | 1(1) | | 1(1) |
| 6. Roach | 3(2) | | 3(6) |
| 7. Stonefly (adult) | 1(1) | | 1(1) |
| 8. Ground beetle | 10(7) | | 10(7) |
| 9. Dung beetle | 1(1) | | 2(1) |
| 10. Coleoptera (unidentified) | 3(2) | 1(100) | 5(3) |
| 11. Lepidoptera (unidentified adult) | 1(1) | | 1(1) |
| 12. Noctuidae moth larvae | 52(36) | 2(100) | 52(35) |
| 13. Noctuidae moth adults | 45(31) | | 45(31) |
| 14. Black cutworm moth adult | 14(10) | | 14(10) |

Fish

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Largemouth Bass | 1(100) | 1(100) |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|

Amphibians

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Salamander (unidentified) | 1(33) | 1(33) |
| 2. Bullfrog | 1(33) | 1(33) |
| 3. Non-bullfrog Ranidae frog | 1(33) | 1(33) |

Birds

| | | | |
|--|------|------|-------|
| 1. Unidentified bird | 1(3) | | 1(1) |
| 2. Duck (unidentified) | | 3(3) | 3(2) |
| 3. Chicken (unidentified) | | 1(1) | 1(1) |
| 4. American Coot | | 1(1) | 1(1) |
| 5. Rock Dove | | 1(1) | 1(1) |
| 6. Mourning Dove | 2(6) | 7(8) | 9(6) |
| 7. Northern Flicker | | 1(1) | 1(1) |
| 8. Horned Lark | | 1(1) | 1(1) |
| 9. Blue Jay | 1(3) | | 1(1) |
| 10. American Crow | | 3(3) | 3(2) |
| 11. Titmouse (<i>Parus</i> sp.) | | 1(1) | 8(5) |
| 12. Brown Thrasher | | 1(1) | 1(1) |
| 13. American Robin | 3(9) | 8(9) | 13(8) |
| 14. Gray-cheeked Thrush | | 1(1) | 1(1) |
| 15. Turdidae (unidentified) | | 2(2) | 2(1) |

| FOOD ITEM | COMMON BARN n = 7 | EASTERN SCREECH n = 30 | GREAT HORNED n = 22 | BARRED n = 15 | SHORT- EARED n = 1 | ALL SPECIES COMBINED n = 75 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Birds (Con't.) | | | | | | |
| 16. Cedar Waxwing | | | 1(1) | | | 1(1) |
| 17. European Starling | 5(15) | 4(12) | 6(7) | | | 15(9) |
| 18. House Sparrow | | 2(6) | | | | 2(1) |
| 19. Eastern Meadowlark | 1(3) | 3(3) | 3(3) | | 2(22) | 6(3) |
| 20. Red-winged Blackbird | 5(15) | | 9(10) | | | 14(9) |
| 21. Rusty Blackbird | 1(3) | | 3(3) | | | 4(2) |
| 22. Common Grackle | 16(48) | 5(15) | 19(21) | 1(100) | 1(11) | 42(26) |
| 23. Brown-headed Cowbird | | 1(3) | 2(2) | | 4(44) | 7(4) |
| 24. Icteridae (unidentified) | 1(3) | | 1(1) | | | 2(1) |
| 25. Fringillidae (unidentified) | | 4(12) | | | | 4(2) |
| 26. Northern Cardinal | | 3(9) | 5(6) | | | 8(5) |
| 27. Rufous-sided Towhee | | 1(3) | 1(1) | | | 2(1) |
| 28. American Goldfinch | | 1(3) | | | | 1(1) |
| 29. Sparrow (<i>Melospiza</i> sp.) | 1(3) | 1(3) | 2(2) | | | 2(1) |
| 30. Passerine (unidentified) | | | 6(7) | | | 8(5) |
| 31. Non-passerine (unidentified) | | | 1(1) | | | 1(1) |
| Mammals | | | | | | |
| 1. Unidentified mammal | 3(3) | 3(8) | 3(3) | 4(11) | | 13(3) |
| 2. Virginia Opossum | | | 1(1) | | | 1(0) |
| 3. Southeastern Shrew | | | | 2(6) | | 2(0) |
| 4. Short-tailed Shrew | 19(21) | | 7(7) | | 10(5) | 36(8) |
| 5. Eastern Mole | | 4(11) | 1(1) | | | 5(1) |
| 6. Red Bat | | 3(8) | | | | 3(1) |
| 7. Eastern Cottontail | | | 14(15) | | | 14(3) |
| 8. Eastern Chipmunk | | | 3(3) | | | 3(1) |
| 9. Unidentified Rodent | | 2(6) | 2(2) | 1(3) | | 5(1) |
| 10. Squirrel (<i>Sciurus</i> sp.) | | | 4(4) | 1(3) | | 5(1) |
| 11. Southern Flying Squirrel | | | | 1(3) | | 1(0) |
| 12. Mouse (<i>Peromyscus</i> sp.) | 6(7) | 9(25) | 8(9) | 16(44) | 23(11) | 62(13) |
| 13. Mouse (<i>Microtus</i> sp.) | 3(3) | | 1(1) | 3(8) | 12(6) | 19(4) |
| 14. Meadow Vole | 22(24) | 14(39) | 8(9) | 1(3) | 112(54) | 157(34) |
| 15. Pine Vole | 36(40) | 1(3) | | 5(14) | 50(24) | 92(20) |
| 16. Southern Bog Lemming | 2(2) | | | 1(3) | | 3(1) |
| 17. Norway Rat | | | 43(47) | | | 43(9) |
| 18. House Mouse | | | | 1(3) | | 1(0) |

Noteworthy among the vertebrates in the Eastern Screech Owl diet was the presence of three Red Bats (*Lasiurus borealis*) in a Jefferson County pellet. These bats possibly fell victim to the screech owl while they were pregnant and therefore less mobile than usual (Dr. Wayne Davis, personal communication). This represents only the second report of this bat in the diet of screech owls; the first record was noted in Tennessee in April 1978 (Turner and Dimmick 1981).

Four percent of all food items were blackbirds while 10% of all food items were pest rodents. Pest rodents and blackbirds together accounted for 14% of all food items. No poultry was found in this analysis of Eastern Screech Owl diet. Two Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*), which comprised 1% of the food items consumed by the screech owl, represented the only game animals.

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*)

Five stomachs with food of this owl were analyzed, representing the counties of Harrison, Henderson, Metcalfe and Shelby.

Seventeen pellet samples were obtained from Jefferson and Trimble counties. Stomach pellet content and pellet analyses resulted in the discovery of 195 food items. Unfortunately, only 5 of these food items were from stomachs, so the results could easily be biased in favor of hard bodied prey such as vertebrates. In fact, 98% of the prey in the combined results (Table 2) were vertebrates. Thus, few conclusions can be drawn as to the real mix of vertebrates and invertebrates in the diet of this owl.

Nonetheless, some observations as to the vertebrate diet of this owl can be made. Roughly half of the vertebrates taken were birds, and the other half were mammals, with salamanders, frogs and a fish, the Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmonoides*) rounding out the total (Table 1). While this species of owl has been known to prey on fish (Fisher, 1893), the fact that only a single bone of this fish, the quadrate, was recovered is puzzling. Likewise, the only ducks (Anseriformes) or chickens (Galliformes) in this study were found to be food of the Great Horned Owl (Table 1). Three ducks and one chicken were found. The only American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) found in this investigation were three found to be in the diet of this owl species. While this is not the first incidence of this item in the Great Horned Owl diet (Latham 1950), it is interesting to note that American Crows often mob owls with impunity. Mobbing is the attraction to and disturbance of predators such as owls by smaller birds such as passerines, including crows (Pettingill 1970). Mobbing is thought to be a relatively safe action by the mobbing birds, but at least one visual observation exists in the literature of a mobbing crow falling prey to the Great Horned Owl it was mobbing (Denson 1979). It is impossible, unfortunately, to determine if the crows in the Kentucky Great Horned Owl diet were participating in mobbing at the time of their demise.

The only marsupial found in this Kentucky owl food analysis was represented by one Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*) in the diet of the Great Horned Owl.

Other researchers in the eastern United States categorize the Great Horned Owl as being heavily dependent on mammals, preying on some birds and eating but few invertebrates (Northeastern United States, Latham 1950; Indiana, Kirkpatrick and Conway 1947; Michigan, Errington 1932b). The findings in this investigation seem to indicate a greater than usual preference by Kentucky Great Horned Owls for avian prey.

Pest rodents (31%) and blackbirds (20%) together accounted for 51% of all food items taken by Kentucky Great Horned Owls. Game animals were represented by Largemouth Bass (1%), Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) (1%), Mourning Doves (4%), Eastern Cottontails (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) (7%) and Squirrels (*Sciurus* sp.) (2%); thus 15% were game animals. Poultry were represented by one unidentified chicken (1%) and three possibly domestic ducks (2%). Altogether 18% of all food items were poultry or game animals.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*)

Twelve stomachs containing 19 prey items were found in the counties of Adair, Ballard, Breathitt, Bullitt, Graves, Grayson, Green, Hickman, Jefferson, Rockcastle and Wolfe. Three pellet samples with 22 food items were analyzed from Jefferson and Hardin counties. Again, 41 prey items represent too small a sample from which to make strong conclusions. However, since approximately half of the prey items were from stomachs, and since only four prey items were invertebrates, it is probably safe to assume that this species depends heavily on vertebrates for its food. Of the 37 vertebrates found, only one was a bird, the rest mammals.

Three species of mammals were found in the Barred Owl sample that were not found in other owl samples. The Southeastern Shrew (*Sorex longirostris*) is usually found in moist woods (Barbour and Davis 1974), thus it is not surprising to find it in the diet of this riparian owl species. The Southern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*), also only found in the diet of the Barred Owl in this investigation, shares with the Southeastern Shrew a propensity for occupying habitats near water. The House Mouse, (*Mus musculus*), which can be found in very high density in localized populations in Kentucky, was curiously represented by only one individual, and that was in the diet of the Barred Owl.

While it cannot be cited as proof that Kentucky Barred Owls prey on fish or other aquatic prey, Brown (1980) reported a case in which a Barred Owl showed much interest in a top-water lure being used by a fisherman in Grayson County, Kentucky on April 13, 1980. It was postulated that this owl considered the lure as a fish, and its interest was interpreted as being indicative of the possible fish diet of this owl.

Other studies of Barred Owl diet have pointed to its use of many types of food; however, the majority of food taken is usually mammalian (Bent 1938, Latham 1950, Errington 1932b). The findings in this report correspond closely with the findings of these researchers.

No poultry and only 2% of the total diet consisted of game animals for the Barred Owl in Kentucky. Pest rodents comprised 66% of all food items noted, blackbirds 2%, for a total of 68%.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

Only one pellet sample, from Fayette County, and no stomachs, were obtained for this species in Kentucky. While a woefully small number of samples was examined, that sample contained 216 food items, and thus was deemed worthy of analysis. This owl's diet was found by pellet analysis alone to be 4% birds and 96% mammals. There is a real possibility that stomach analysis would reveal the invertebrate items often only discernible by this method. The monotonous diet of this owl is well documented. Latham (1950), Kirkpatrick and Conway (1947), Clark (1975) and others have found that the Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) and other microtine

TABLE 2
COMBINED STOMACH CONTENTS AND PELLET ANALYSIS:
 Actual numbers and percentages (%) of
 food item groups by owl species
 (n = number of food-containing stomachs and pellets combined)

| FOOD ITEM GROUP | COMMON BARN n = 7 | EASTERN SCREECH n = 30 | GREAT HORNED n = 22 | BARRED n = 15 | SHORT- EARED n = 1 | ALL SPECIES COMBINED n = 75 |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Earthworm | | 1(0) | | | | 1(0) |
| Spiders | | 17(7) | | | | 17(2) |
| Isopod | | 1(0) | | | | 1(0) |
| Crayfish | | 1(0) | 5(3) | 2(5) | | 7(1) |
| Centipedes | | 8(3) | | | | 8(1) |
| Insects | | 144(60) | 1(0) | 2(5) | | 147(18) |
| Fish | | | 1(0) | | | 1(0) |
| Amphibians | | | 3(2) | | | 3(0) |
| Birds | 33(27) | 36(15) | 90(46) | 1(2) | 9(4) | 166(20) |
| Mammals | 91(73) | 36(15) | 95(49) | 36(88) | 207(96) | 465(57) |
| All Food Items | 124 | 244 | 195 | 41 | 216 | 820 |

rodents are disproportionately represented in the diet of the Short-eared Owl. The findings in this research reflect this tendency, as 81% of all food items were microtines.

No poultry or game animals were recorded in the diet of the Short-eared Owl in this study. Blackbirds (2%) and pest rodents (91%) constituted 93% of all food items found.

ALL OWL SPECIES COMBINED

Owls were found to consume a minimum of 67 taxa of animals in this state. This fact leads to a concurrence with other investigators that owls, as a group, have diverse diets. Very real exceptions to this rule exist, however, as seen in the Short-eared Owl.

The food of Kentucky owls fell into 10 groups. Seven of these groups were each represented by only 0-2% of the total. Three food groups represented 18, 20 and 57% of the total diet; these were insects, birds and mammals, respectively. Invertebrates constituted 22% of food items overall; vertebrates represented 78%. Game animals represented 4% of the total food of owls; poultry was 0.5%, for a total of 4.5% for game and poultry. Blackbirds were 10% of all food; pest rodents were 46% of all food. Together these groups represented 56% of all food items of Kentucky owls.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of this investigation point to the inaccuracies of some popularly-held ideas concerning owl diets. Not only did the diet of owls of Kentucky, as a group, include only 4.5% game and poultry, it included 56% blackbirds and pest rodent species. The obvious conclusion is that owls are an asset to Kentucky. Pest rodents annually cause considerable destruction to crops, horticultural plants and man-made structures. Blackbirds are, more and more each year, problematic in those areas where they accumulate in large flocks in late summer and fall. The slight deficits to game and poultry inflicted by Kentucky owls are overwhelmingly overcome by the effect of owls on populations of rodents and blackbirds.

Many methods of study of owl diets exist. The two utilized in this work (stomach content and pellet analyses) are valid methods which reveal a relatively accurate view of owl diets. Nevertheless, additional methods are helpful and would benefit other investigators' efforts in any future studies. These methods should include, but are not limited to, observations of nest box contents, photography at the nest, and tethering young owls in order to record food brought to them by parent birds.

Many aspects of owl food habits have been explored by researchers, past and present. Nearly all of these aspects depend on a baseline study of the food taken by owls in a particular geographic area. Further studies of owl food habits in Kentucky are warranted, and it is hoped that the results presented in this investigation will aid in future studies of this interesting and important aspect of Kentucky ecology.

Those interested in obtaining more information on this investigation may contact the author, or consult the Master's thesis submitted by the author to the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky. This manuscript is in the Ekstrom Library at that institution, and is titled "An Analysis of the Food Habits of Some Kentucky Owls."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the members of my reading committee, Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Dr. Thane S. Robinson and Dr. Joseph Deck for their help in this research.

This research project was greatly aided by several people, most notably, Drs. Monroe and Robinson, and Mr. Ronald Wilson. Those who helped in identification of various taxa were Mr. Robert Barker, Ms. Diana Matthiesen, Dr. John Reynolds, Dr. Joseph Beatty, Dr. Charles V. Covell, Jr., Dr. Wayne Davis, Dr. Stuart E. Neff, and Dr. Horton Hobbs, Jr.

A project of this type necessarily depends to a great extent on the help of cooperators who collected the dead owls or pellets. The names of these cooperators are too numerous to list. Two cooperators whose aid in collection of dead owls together accounted for a great number of specimens were Dr. Pierre N. Allaire and Mr. Bill Cromer.

Ms. Deborah Harper and Mrs. Leah Kohn of the Department of Biology, University of Louisville, were a great help in the correspondence involved in the project; thanks go especially to Ms. Harper, who typed the thesis manuscript, and Judi Jones who typed this paper for publication.

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SUMMARY OF ICELAND GULL RECORDS IN KENTUCKY

BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.

The Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) is a pale, northern species typical of the Arctic areas of northeastern North America. It is regularly recorded in winter on the eastern Great Lakes and along the Atlantic Coast south to Chesapeake Bay. The species has occurred casually farther down the Atlantic coast and at other inland locations. The Iceland Gull has been reported several times in Kentucky on the Ohio River at Louisville with all but one record coming from the Falls of the Ohio. Monroe *et al.* (1988) regarded all but the most recent record at the Falls of the Ohio as not documented sufficiently to rule out other species. It should be understood that while these records were all fairly well documented and could very likely represent sightings of Iceland Gulls, the subtleties associated with the distinction between the Iceland and the closely related Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*) and the possibility of hybrids between the two, as well as the occasional occurrence of albinistic individuals of more common species, make this a wise treatment for all records not fully documented.

One record appears to have been documented sufficiently to rule out all other possibilities. A first-year bird was present at the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville, Jefferson County, 27 December 1983 to 11 February 1984 (Stamm, KW 60:25, 1984: B. Palmer-Ball notes). This individual was studied by numerous observers including Bruce Peterjohn, Middlewestern Prairie Region Editor for *American Birds*, who expressed the opinion that the bird was clearly an Iceland Gull and thoroughly documented the occurrence with a detailed written description.

Curiously, up until the winter of 1987-88, the Iceland Gull had not been observed in the large concentrations of gulls at Kentucky-Barkley-Smithland dams in western Kentucky. Over the course of several years of observation of gulls there, I had been unable to find an Iceland Gull although the Thayer's Gull was found to be a regular and not unusual winter visitor to that area (Palmer-Ball 1987). Considering the paucity of records of this rarer of the two closely related (and perhaps intraspecific) forms on the Great Lakes and in the Mississippi Valley, the relative scarcity of Iceland Gull in western Kentucky was not unexpected. However, the annual observations of this species on Lake Michigan and periodic

reports along the Mississippi River in the St. Louis area seemed to indicate that the species should occur on occasion somewhere in the vicinity of the dams.

On 13 February 1988, I was finally successful in locating an Iceland Gull in western Kentucky. In fact, *two* first-year birds, nearly identical in appearance and obviously different from Thayer's Gulls, were observed perched together on a small rock island just above Barkley Dam, Lyon County by Diane Ebel, Lene Rauth and myself. These birds were relatively small, being larger than the many nearby Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) but noticeably smaller than all of several unsexed Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) standing nearby. Both birds were very pale in overall color, resembling a first-year Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*) with nearly pure white primaries. The only noticeable markings on the primaries were pale, sandy brown tongues of color extending along the webbing. The wingtips were quite attenuated and extended beyond the tail. The tail pattern of only one bird was studied closely, and it was mottled white and pale, sandy brown without a solid terminal band. The upper and under-tail coverts were whitish and strongly barred with sandy brown. The back feathers of both birds were whitish and barred with pale, sandy brown. The bills of both birds were small and noticeably lighter in build than that of a Thayer's or Herring Gull. One bird's bill appeared to be entirely blackish while the other's appeared to be black with grayish on the basal one-fourth. Both had pinkish legs and feet and dark eyes.

Photographs showing the light primaries and size comparisons were taken through a Questar telescope and serve as the first photographic documentation of this species' occurrence in the state and the second well-documented record for Kentucky.

The taxonomic relationship between the Iceland and Thayer's gulls is still unclear, and their respective patterns of seasonal movement and wintering ranges are not completely documented. While it is clear that the Thayer's Gull is an annual and relatively uncommon transient and winter resident near the dams in western Kentucky and at least occasional at the Falls of the Ohio, it appears that the Iceland Gull should be expected to occur much less often, perhaps at best only once every few years and then only singly or in very small numbers. The possibility of hybrids between the two forms and occasional individuals of common species exhibiting varying degrees of albinism should never be overlooked. It is always wise to keep in mind that the distinction between Iceland and Thayer's gulls is quite subtle and one that should always be made with extreme caution, even under ideal circumstances.

I would like to thank Bruce Peterjohn for reviewing this article and contributing notes concerning the ranges of the two species and the subtleties in distinguishing between them.

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SPRING MEETING — APRIL 28-30, 1989

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 66th annual spring meeting on April 28-30, 1989 at Barren River Lake State Park.

The Friday evening session was opened at 7:30 P.M. with a welcome to members and guests by President Jim Williams. The evening speakers were introduced by Virginia Kingsolver. Gary Ritchison spoke on his study of the Northern Cardinal's singing behavior. Anne Stamm presented a brief biography of Gordon Wilson and the history of the Gordon Wilson Fund. Blaine Ferrell and Jeff Jones gave an update regarding their work on the use of nest boxes on reclaimed strip mines. Charles Elliott spoke on the utilization of strip mines by birds in Alaska. Herbert Clay presented slides of Short-eared Owls in Ohio County. Wayne Davis discussed methods of foiling House Sparrows at bluebird nest boxes, and Bob Brown concluded the evening program with results of his study on the food habits of Kentucky's owls.

Warm, sunny weather was present for the Saturday morning field trips, which took place at Brigadoon and the area below Barren River Dam. Many members also enjoyed lunch with a hot dog roast at Brigadoon.

The Board of Directors met at 4:00 P.M. in the lodge.

The Saturday evening program was held in the park lodge beginning at 7:30 P.M. David Snyder, Professor of Biology at Austin Peay State University, gave an outstanding presentation on the wildlife and conservation of the Galapagos Islands.

It was announced that the 1989 fall meeting would be held on September 22-24 at Cumberland Falls State Park and the 1990 spring meeting would be held at Rough River State Park on April 27-29. Blaine Ferrell led in compiling the day's bird list, which totalled an impressive 133 species. If species observed outside the park area were included, the species list tally climbed to 154. No new species were added to the tally on Sunday. Sixty five people registered at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1989

There were 65 people in attendance at the meeting held at Barren River Lake State Resort Park.

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Charles and Vera Guthrie, Jeff Jones, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Mathes and Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Shadowen

BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely, Tom and Karen Stephens

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

CRITTENDEN: Joe and Kathy Caminiti

FRANKFORT: Howard Jones

- HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin, Eileen Sandlin and Donnie Spencer
LEXINGTON: Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flynn
and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams
LEITCHFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. Montelle Wilson
LOUISVILLE: James and Margaret Bray, Bob Brown, Dr. Herbert Clay,
Judi Jones, John Krull, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Donald Parker,
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pike, F. W. Schoettler, Thor Steffen, Mr. and
Mrs. F. W. Stamm and Donald Summerfield
MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell
MOREHEAD: Dr. Fred Busroe
OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Mary Lydia Greenwell, William Perkins
and Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson
PADUCAH: Mrs. Damon Caddell
PRINCETON: Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Rowland
RICHMOND: Dr. Charles Elliott, Dr. and Mrs. Gary Ritchison and Carol
Jordan
STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stephenson
CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK: Steve Kickert
CLARKSVILLE, TN: Dr. and Mrs. David Snyder
DYERSBURG, TN: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, 1989

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Barren River State Resort Park include: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, American Avocet, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler,

Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 133 species. Interestingly, according to available records the spring counts of 1977 at Mammoth Cave National Park and 1981 at Barren River State Resort Park come closest with a species total of 126. Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Horned Lark, Water Pipit, Dickcissel, and Bobolink were species observed at the transient lakes near Bowling Green and elsewhere outside the park area. This brought the weekend total to 154 species.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Corrections to the Midwinter Bird Count Report

Two Black-crowned Night Herons and a Greater Scaup (Louisville) were inadvertently omitted from the count report. The addition of these two species brought the tally for count days to 119 species. In addition, the report of the extraordinary high number of Brewer's-Blackbirds (Danville) is undocumented.

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Brenda Eaden for the photograph of the nest of Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) taken on May 18, 1989.

FALL AND WINTER USE OF THE LEXINGTON RESERVOIRS BY WATERBIRDS

BRAD ANDRES

INTRODUCTION — The distribution of transient and wintering aquatic birds is well studied in many parts of Kentucky. Narrative descriptions of waterbirds occurring on natural waterbodies such as the Falls of the Ohio (Stamm and Summerfield 1952, Stamm *et al.* 1960) and the transient lakes at Woodburn (Shadowen 1972) have greatly added to the distributional picture of birds within the state. For thirty years, Gordon Wilson supplied bird-use information on the transient lakes at Woodburn (*e.g.* Wilson 1929, 1956). Artificial impoundments from the Cumberland Plateau (Altman 1982, Harm 1973) to the Pennyroyal (Powell 1960) have also received the attention of Kentucky birders. More recent studies at the Clark Fish Hatchery (Busroe 1985), the Falls of the Ohio (Palmer-Ball 1986), and the refuges of western Kentucky (*e.g.* Logsdon 1986) have quantified waterbird use of the state's artificial and natural waters. Bellrose (1976) suggested that a minor fall waterfowl migration corridor (62,000 - 200,000) exists across central Kentucky. However, this area has received little attention. This paper documents the abundance and occurrence of fall-transient and wintering waterbirds using impoundments in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

STUDY AREA — The Lexington reservoirs are located on the southeastern edge of Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. They were constructed between 1884 and 1913 to serve as water storage facilities for the Kentucky-American Water Company. Of the four existing reservoirs, three were surveyed for the presence of waterbirds. Reservoir #2 covers 80 acres (32.4 ha) and has an average depth of 12.5 feet (3.81 m). Reservoir #3 covers 90 acres (36.4 ha) and has an average depth of 14.5 feet (4.42 m). Reservoir #4 covers 270 acres (109 ha) and has an average depth of 8.5 feet (2.59 m). Combined, the three reservoirs encompass 440 acres (178 ha) of which 70% was surveyed. Surveys were not conducted on reservoir #1 due to its proximity to a major roadway. Currently, reservoir #4 is leased to the city of Lexington and is bordered by a municipal park, undeveloped woodlots, and agricultural fields. Residential development is rapidly encroaching on the fringes of this impoundment. Reservoirs #2 and #3 were sold in 1964 to private developers and are presently surrounded by homes.

METHODS — Quantitative surveys of all waterbirds were conducted by the same, single observer from October 1, 1984 to February 24, 1985. In addition, surveys of non-anseriform waterbirds were conducted from August 1 to September 30, 1985. Intervals between surveys varied from 4 to 10 days, depending on logistics. Surveys were thus treated as a random sample of survey-days from the total number of days in the sampling period. Observation periods lasted about one hour (somewhat dependent on the number of birds present) and occurred between 1400 and 1800 hours. Surveys were always conducted from the same points along the reservoirs' shorelines. Species and numbers were recorded for waterfowl and waterfowl-like birds and presence or absence was scored for all other species associated with aquatic habitats. Species identification was accomplished using a 22X spotting scope.

Quantitative analysis of waterbird data consisted of calculating means (birds/survey) and standard errors (SE) using formulae derived for simple random sampling. These parameters were estimated for the entire period as well as for monthly periods. Under the sampling plan, means may be interpreted as the number of birds present on the reservoir (the area sampled) during any instance in time during the period. Using this parametric approach, species were ranked in abundance according to their mean values. Additionally, variance estimates associated with the mean (standard errors) revealed information on the certainty of finding numbers of waterbirds that are proximate to their mean. Coefficients of variation ($CV = \text{standard error}/\text{mean}$) were also calculated. The CV is a relative measure of the amount of variation. Thus, high CVs indicate a large variance associated with the mean. Coefficients of variation were used to examine the stability of waterbird numbers during any particular monthly period or for the entire period.

Waterfowl were qualitatively assigned a status code, either winter resident, transient or both, based on whether or not they occurred on the reservoirs during maximum ice cover in January. Species that were not assessed quantitatively were scored as present or absent on a monthly basis.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION — During the period of October 1, 1984 to February 28, 1985, 32 surveys were conducted. Eight surveys were made during August and September, 1985. Forty-nine species of nine families were recorded: loons (1), grebes (2), comorants (1), herons (5), geese and ducks (20) rails (1), shorebirds (13), gulls and terns (5) and kingfishers (1). All nomenclature follows the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Checklist. Four additional species of waterfowl were observed outside the study period (Table 1). All species found at the reservoirs were those expected to be encountered west of the Cumberland Plateau (Mengel 1965, Monroe *et al.* 1988). The number of species was slightly higher than Busroe's (1985) observation of 43 species from a Cumberland Plateau site. Mallards were by far the most common species, accounting for 54% of the estimated mean for all species (Table 1). American Coots were the next most abundant species (17% of the total species mean). Although the observation of a single flock of 557 is no record for the state, it seems an impressive number for central Kentucky. Analysis of means for higher taxa of waterbirds (excluding mallards) shows that use by coots and dabbling ducks is higher than the combined use of the remaining taxa (Table 2).

Inspection of the coefficients of variation in Table 1 shows that several species pass through the Bluegrass rapidly and occasionally in substantial numbers. For example, Common Loons, Lesser Scaups and Red-breasted Mergansers were among the 12 most abundant species; yet they have coefficients of variation of 0.69, 0.76, and 0.97 respectively. Maximum counts for these species indicate that the high mean was due to a single, large flock. Pursuing the reverse condition of transients, CVs were examined on a monthly basis to find if there were periods of temporary residency in the species using the reservoirs. Table 3 depicts months for species when the monthly CV was lower than the overall CV (because standard error and hence CV is dependent on the number of surveys, the overall CV would be expected to be lower). From this table, it is easy to see that several species of waterbirds either linger after the majority of its kind move on (American Coot, Lesser Scaup, American Black Duck) or take up a temporary residence that is disturbed as environmental conditions change (Green-winged Teal, Common Goldeneye, Northern Shoveler). These latter species may be thought of as facultative winterers. As

long as weather and ice conditions stay favorable, they will probably winter on the reservoirs. The aberrance apparent in the Blue-winged Teal pattern is due to the early fall migration of this species.

Table 1. Mean abundance (birds/survey) of waterfowl and waterfowl-like birds occurring on the Lexington Reservoirs from October 1984 - February 1985. Species are ranked from high to low abundance.

| Species | Mean | SE ^a | CV ^b | Max ^c | % (Mean) ^d | Status ^e |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Mallard | 177.9 | 11.2 | 0.06 | 346 | 54.2 | W |
| American Coot | 57.0 | 20.4 | 0.36 | 557 | 17.4 | T,W |
| Green-winged Teal | 17.6 | 3.5 | 0.20 | 65 | 5.4 | T |
| Lesser Scaup | 14.0 | 10.7 | 0.76 | 345 | 4.3 | T,W |
| American Black Duck | 11.2 | 3.7 | 0.33 | 103 | 3.4 | W |
| Canada Goose | 7.2 | 2.5 | 0.35 | 60 | 2.2 | W |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 7.2 | 7.0 | 0.97 | 226 | 2.2 | T |
| Ring-necked Duck | 4.8 | 1.8 | 0.37 | 42 | 1.5 | T,W |
| Ruddy Duck | 4.7 | 1.0 | 0.22 | 22 | 1.4 | T,W |
| Hooded Merganser | 4.6 | 1.4 | 0.30 | 28 | 1.4 | T |
| American Wigeon | 4.6 | 1.3 | 0.27 | 28 | 1.4 | T,W |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 4.2 | 0.6 | 0.14 | 12 | 1.3 | T,W |
| Common Loon | 4.1 | 2.8 | 0.69 | 90 | 1.2 | T |
| Gadwall | 2.6 | 0.5 | 0.20 | 8 | 0.8 | T,W |
| Northern Shoveler | 2.2 | 0.7 | 0.32 | 14 | 0.7 | W |
| Common Goldeneye | 1.4 | 0.5 | 0.32 | 9 | 0.4 | T |
| Blue-winged Teal | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.56 | 14 | 0.3 | T |
| Horned Grebe | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.37 | 7 | 0.2 | T |
| Bufflehead | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.40 | 7 | 0.2 | W |
| Redhead | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.82 | 10 | 0.1 | T |
| Wood Duck | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.60 | 3 | 0.1 | T |
| Northern Pintail | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.00 | 2 | <0.1 | T |
| Canvasback | <0.1 | <0.1 | 1.00 | 1 | <0.1 | T |
| Greater Scaup | <0.1 | <0.1 | 1.00 | 1 | <0.1 | T |
| Snow Goose | ** | | | | | |
| Oldsquaw | ** | | | | | |
| White-winged Scoter | ** | | | | | |
| Common Merganser | ** | | | | | |
| All Species | 328 | 27.5 | 0.08 | 1004 | 100 | |

** denotes observed at the reservoir outside of the study period.

a standard error of the mean

b coefficient of variation

c maximum number recorded during a single survey

d percentage of the mean abundance for all species

e status: T=transient, W=wintering

Table 2. Mean abundance (birds/survey), standard error (SE), percentage of all species' mean abundance (% (Mean)), percentage of all species' standard error (% (SE)) and number of species (SPP) for higher taxa of waterbirds occurring on the Lexington Reservoirs from October 1984-February 1985.

| Taxon | Mean | SE | % (Mean) | % (SE) | SPP |
|-------------------------|-------|------|----------|--------|-----|
| Loons | 4.1 | 2.8 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1 |
| Grebes | 5.0 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 2 |
| Geese | 7.2 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 0.8 | 1 |
| Wood Ducks | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | <0.1 | 1 |
| Dabblers | 216.9 | 12.4 | 66.1 | 3.8 | 8 |
| Dabblers (w/o mallards) | 39.0 | 5.3 | 11.9 | 1.6 | 7 |
| Divers | 19.3 | 10.9 | 5.9 | 3.3 | 5 |
| Mergansers | 14.0 | 7.1 | 4.3 | 2.2 | 4 |
| Stiff-tails | 4.7 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 1 |
| Rails | 57.0 | 20.3 | 17.4 | 5.3 | 1 |
| All Species | 328 | 27.5 | 100 | | 24 |

Table 3. Mean Abundance (birds/survey) for species where monthly CV is less than the overall CV and is less than 0.5. Presented are overall mean, CV, month where the fore-mentioned criteria apply and monthly mean, CV, by species.

| Species | Overall | | Month | Mean | CV |
|---------------------|---------|------|-------|------|------|
| | Mean | CV | | | |
| Green-winged Teal | 17.6 | 0.20 | NOV | 39.6 | 0.15 |
| American Black Duck | 11.2 | 0.33 | JAN | 12.2 | 0.26 |
| | | | FEB | 10.4 | 0.14 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 0.8 | 0.56 | OCT | 3.3 | 0.47 |
| Northern Shoveler | 2.2 | 0.32 | JAN | 5.0 | 0.21 |
| Lesser Scaup | 14.0 | 0.76 | DEC | 3.2 | 0.47 |
| Common Goldeneye | 1.4 | 0.32 | DEC | 4.7 | 0.26 |
| American Coot | 57.0 | 0.36 | NOV | 38.0 | 0.19 |
| | | | DEC | 27.3 | 0.19 |
| | | | JAN | 35.4 | 0.20 |
| | | | FEB | 16.6 | 0.30 |

Temporal patterns of dabbling ducks (excluding mallards), diving ducks and mergansers are plotted in Figure 1. General migration patterns corresponded with those described for the entire state (Monroe *et al.* 1988). Heaviest use by dabblers occurred in November, whereas merganser use was most prevalent in December. Overall, diving ducks were fairly scarce on the reservoirs. A large flock of Lesser Scaup encountered in October accounted for the high number displayed in this month. Species diversity of waterfowl peaked during December (Figure 2). Palmer-Ball (1986) also found a peak in waterfowl diversity at the Falls of the Ohio during December.

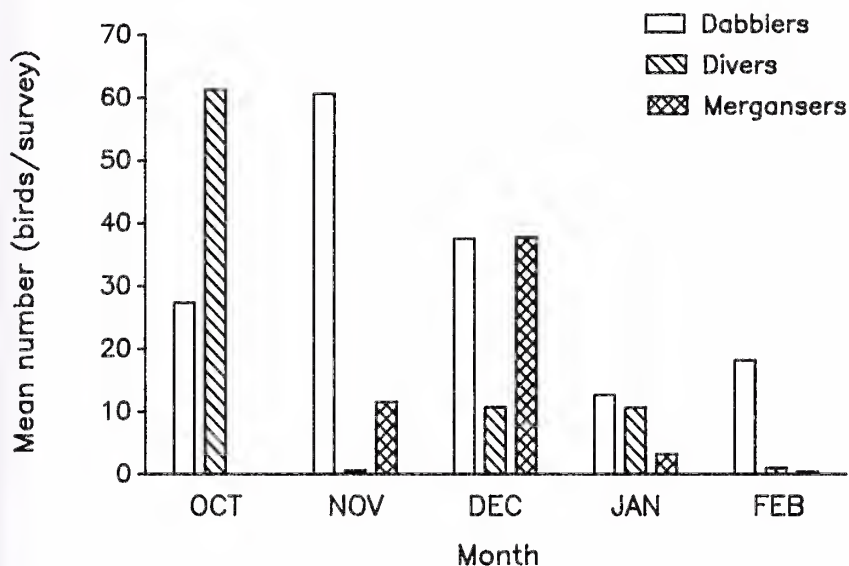


Figure 1. Average monthly numbers (birds/survey) of dabblers (without Mallards), divers, and mergansers on the Lexington reservoirs.

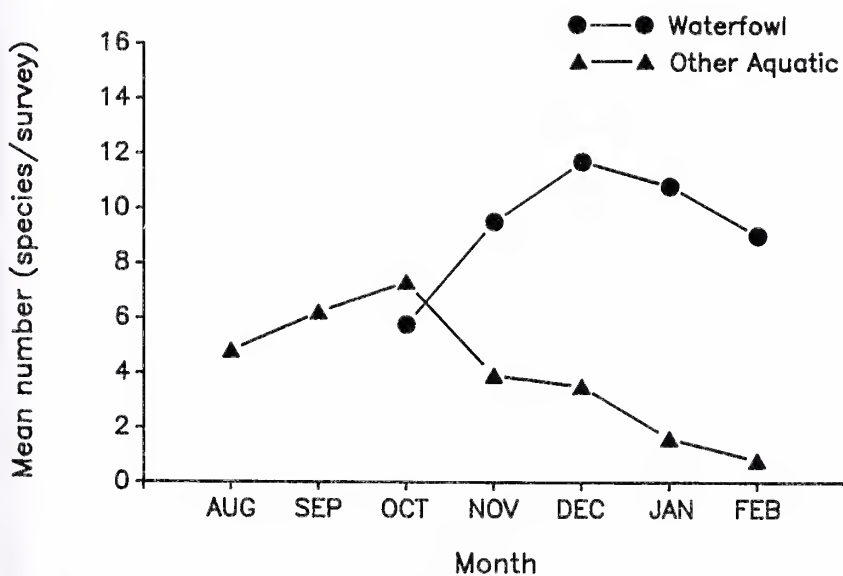


Figure 2. Average monthly numbers (species/survey) of waterfowl and other aquatic species found on the Lexington reservoirs.

Of the 25 species of aquatic birds assessed quantitatively, 52% of the species observed were shorebirds (Table 4). Although numerous species used the reservoirs as a migration stop-over, few remained to winter here. The most consistent users of the reservoirs in mid-winter were Great Blue Herons. A roost was located on the unpopulated side of reservoir #4. The maximum number of species was found in October (Figure 2). Several species of shorebirds arrived during the last week of October and lingered into early November. Peak species diversity at the reservoirs occurred somewhat later than at the Falls of the Ohio (Palmer-Ball 1986).

It is apparent that the variety of waterbird species found on Lexington reservoirs is comparable to many sites in the state. Although numbers of birds are well below the magnitude found in western Kentucky, waterbird use is still substantial. In the current day of continuing wetland loss, minor wetland sites may take on increased importance. Unfortunately, as development continues around Lexington, the ability of the reservoirs to provide waterbirds with a suitable resting or wintering site may change. It is hoped that this study will aid future workers in gauging such alterations.

Table 4. Monthly occurrence (+ denotes presence, — denotes absence) of other aquatic birds found on Lexington Reservoirs from October 1984 - February 1985, August - September 1985.

| Species | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Double-crested Cormorant | — | — | + | + | — | — | — |
| Great Blue Heron | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Great Egret | — | — | — | — | + | — | — |
| Little Blue Heron | — | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Green-backed Heron | + | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | + | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Semipalmated Plover | — | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Killdeer | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Greater Yellowlegs | + | + | + | + | — | — | — |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | + | + | + | + | — | — | — |
| Solitary Sandpiper | + | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Spotted Sandpiper | + | + | — | — | — | — | — |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | + | + | — | — | — | — | — |
| Least Sandpiper | + | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Baird's Sandpiper | — | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | — | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Dunlin | — | — | + | + | — | — | — |
| Stilt Sandpiper | + | + | + | — | — | — | — |
| Common Snipe | — | — | + | — | — | — | — |
| Bonaparte's Gull | — | — | — | — | + | + | — |
| Ring-billed Gull | — | — | + | + | + | + | + |
| Herring Gull | — | — | — | + | + | — | — |
| Common Tern | — | — | + | — | — | — | — |
| Forster's Tern | — | — | + | — | — | — | — |
| Belted Kingfisher | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |

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THE SPRING SEASON OF 1989

ANNE L. STAMM

The spring season of 1989 was in sharp contrast to that of 1988. There was a scarcity of rain in 1988 while rainfall this spring was above normal for all three months. The heavy rains throughout the state caused rivers and streams to overflow. The transient lakes in Warren County were unusually high and provided excellent habitat for waterfowl.

March and April were warm and on average temperatures were above normal. The southerly winds and warm fronts in March triggered a few species of transient swallows to arrive unusually early. May, usually warmer than April, was cooler than normal. The cool weather in May may have influenced some species to linger beyond normal departure dates. The strongest migration movements occurred April 17-18, May 3-8 and May 21-26.

Probably the most outstanding event of the season was the first nesting of the Short-eared Owl in Kentucky. Other notable sightings were a Glossy/White-faced Ibis in Louisville, Cinnamon Teal, Swainson's Hawk, Ruff, Clay-colored Sparrow and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviation — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; LP = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Reelfoot NWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area; Swan Lake WMA = Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area, Ballard County; SHF = Surrey Hills Farm, Louisville. Transient lakes are McElroy and Chaney Lakes, Bowling Green, Warren County.

Loons through Cormorants — Although Common Loons returned to Kentucky in March, the migration was not spectacular. Single birds were first observed on Kentucky Lake above the dam on March 12 (BPB) and at LP on March 22 (LR); small numbers (3-4) appeared at LP on April 13 and 17 (JH, BPB, respectively), and at Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake in early May (BPB); while one in breeding plumage was noted at Barren River Lake, Barren County on April 29 (LMc) and one in winter plumage was still present on Kentucky Lake above the dam on May 20 (BBC). One to two Pied-billed Grebes were present at LP from March 11 through April 17 (JH); small numbers at various sites in Jefferson County (S, MB), Ohio and Muhlenberg counties during April (BE, TE); but the greatest number was at McElroy Lake, where in mid-April they peaked at 25, and a few lingered through the end of May (BPB). Horned Grebes were reported from six locations: Lentz's Pond, Jefferson County (JK), Lake Pewee (BPB), Kentucky Lake (BPB, DP), McElroy Lake (BPB), Cave Run Lake and MCFH, Rowan County (FB). Highest count during the period was 15-20 birds at McElroy Lake on March 25. One bird (perhaps with an injured wing) remained at McElroy Lake throughout May (BPB). An Eared Grebe was seen on the Ohio River above the Falls of the Ohio on March 17 (DP, KC); and another, or perhaps the same bird, at Lentz's Pond on March 23 (DP); and single birds in breeding plumage were present at McElroy Lake on April 30 and May 14 (BPB, DP). It was believed that these two birds were different individuals since a bird was not observed in between these dates. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were quite impressive with 100 in cypress trees at Lake #9 on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE) and an estimated 350 there on May 3 (BPB); 60 migrating north on Lake Barkley south of the 68-80 bridge on April 17 (BPB, DP); about 30 at Smithland Dam on April 13 (DN, MB); and 18-26 on the shore of Shippingport Island, Louisville on March 31 and April 23 (LR). Smaller groups included 11 birds at McElroy Lake on April 23 (BPB); six at Mayfair Basins, Louisville (DP); one at Rabbit Hash, Boone County on May 13 (LMc); and one at MCHF on April 4-6 (FB, ME, GE). One bird remained in southern Ohio County throughout the period (KC).

Bittern through Herons — It was encouraging that four American Bitterns were reported: one heard calling at Ferguson Spring Marsh, Trigg County in LBL on April 9, (BPB); one flushed at SWMA, Henderson County on April 28 (BPB, DP); one at a woodside puddle in the knobs near Danville on April 30 (FL, WK); and one at the cattail pond southwest of Cool Springs on the Homestead Mine in Ohio County on May

30 (S). Only one Least Bittern was reported: one observed at the cattail pond, same site as above, on May 18 (BE, KC, BPB). Great Blue Herons were present but in smaller numbers than usual. Strangely enough, the first Great Egret reported was sighted at Dix Dam, Mercer County on April 1 (FL); two were seen near Cave City, Barren County on April 4 (JK); one on Rose Island Road, Jefferson County on April 7 (DP); five in western Fulton County on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE); nine in a field north of Smithland Dam, Livingston County on April 12 (DN, MB); one at MCFH on April 9 (FB); two below McAlpine Dam, Louisville on April 19 (LR); one at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on April 22 (BM *et. al.*); seven at SWMA on May 29 and a single bird at McElroy Lake on April 29 (BPB). Otherwise, small numbers were seen in the usual places in western Kentucky. Two Snowy Egrets had returned to Kentucky by April 8 and were seen along KY-94 southwest of Hickman, Fulton County (BPB, CP, JTE); singles were observed on the Peal Unit of BWMA on May 3 (BPB); at McElroy Lake on May 20 (BBC); and at Swan Lake WMA on May 21 (BBC). Five Little Blue Herons were first seen at Reelfoot NWR, Fulton County on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE); approximately 10-15 were seen at both BWMA and Swan Lake WMA on May 3-4 (BPB) and May 21 (BBC). A *Tricolored Heron* was thoroughly studied at MCFH April 4 (ME, GE), providing Kentucky with its first sight record. The bird was well described and satisfactorily documented by Mary and Gary Elam. Cattle Egrets were first observed on April 29 at McElroy Lake when a flock of 33 came to roost (BPB); approximately 200 birds were seen in several flocks moving west over Swan Lake WMA on May 4 as they went to roost in Missouri (BPB, JTE). Other sightings included 12 birds in Ballard County and four in Carlisle County on May 16 (CP); two at McElroy Lake on May 20 (BF); and one on a farm pond near Union, Boone County on May 6-7 (LMc). Green-backed Herons continue to be reported in low numbers except at MCFH where the daily average during the month of May was 24 birds per trip (FB). Three Black-crowned Night-Herons arrived at Mayfair Basins on March 14 (S, FS) and at Shippingport Island on March 17, but 47 were seen at the latter site on March 23 (DP); and an adult bird was seen on a bottomland slough several miles north of Bayou in Livingston County on April 17 (BPB, DP). Six adult Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were observed in the Crescent Hill area on April 20, where they were nesting (KC, HLC). Other sightings were three birds at Lentz's Pond on May 11 (DP), two there on May 26 (LR), and a single bird at BWMA on May 3 and 4 (BPB, JTE). An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis was observed at Lentz's Pond on May 7 (CL) and represents the first sight record for Jefferson County.

Waterfowl — After a warm front in mid-March the waterfowl migration was well under way and most lakes and large bodies of water had new arrivals. A Mute Swan of unknown origin was observed flying along the Gene Snyder Freeway in eastern Jefferson County in late March (BPB). The flock of 19 White-fronted Geese at McElroy Lake March 19-April 1 was east of its normal range (BPB, DP, KC, DE). The only Snow Geese reported were the 12 at McElroy Lake on March 11-April 1 (BPB) and one near Danville on March 4 (FL). Ten Green-winged Teal were seen on McElroy Lake on March 11 and they remained most of the period; one drake was still present on May 31 and provided a new late spring date (BPB). Other sightings included about 30 birds at SWMA on April 7, 10 at Chaney Lake in late April (BPB); and 15 at Reelfoot NWR, Fulton County on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE); one bird at Petersburg, Boone County

was still present on May 6 (LMc). The Blue-winged Teal was widespread (m. ob.) and highest concentration was 100+ birds at McElroy Lake on April 23; and at least two broods of downy young were seen at McElroy Lake (BPB). The sighting of a male *Cinnamon Teal* on the Western Kentucky University Farm, south of Bowling Green, April 23 was note-worthy (BPB). The bird was also observed later that day by Dr. Blaine Ferrell and on April 24 by Donald Parker. (A good photograph was obtained of the bird.) Seven Northern Shovelers were first noticed at Lentz's Pond on March 3 (LR); 10 birds were present at McElroy Lake on March 11 with six to eight still there on May 31, with a peak of 50+ birds April 1 and 23 (BPB); scattered groups on Reelfoot NWR totaled 250 on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE); and smaller groups of about 20 birds were seen upstream from Kentucky Dam on April 4 (CP) and at SWMA on April 7 (BPB). Other puddle ducks with fair concentrations included the Gadwall with approximately 75 birds at McElroy Lake on March 19 and the American Wigeon with a peak of 300 on March 25 at the same location; three Gadwall and Two American Wigeon were still present on May 31 (BPB).

The 35 Redheads at Cave Run Lake on March 9 and the 20 at MCFH on March 16 were exceptional records for Rowan County (FB); 50+ were present at McElroy Lake on March 11, where two male and one female were still there on May 14 (BPB); small numbers were found elsewhere. Ring-necked Ducks were widespread all across the state from Fulton County in the west to Rowan and Morgan counties in the eastern section of the state (m. ob.). Highest counts included 300 at Chaney Lake (BPB), 150 at MCFH (FB), 100 at McElroy Lake (BPB), 69 at Pulaski County Park and 55 at Somerset, Pulaski County (JEL). Late stragglers included one at McElroy Lake on May 20 (BF) and one still there on May 31 (BPB). A male Greater Scaup was observed at Chaney Lake on March 11-19 (BPB) and a few at Cave Run Lake on March 19 and 31, also, at MCFH on April 4, 6, and 9 (FB). Four groups of Lesser Scaup totaling 2000± were seen on April 4 upstream from Kentucky Dam (CP); about 100+ at MCFH on April 6 and 200± at Cave Run Lake March 31 (FB). Other concentrations included 150 at Chaney Lake on March 19 and a peak of 200 birds at McElroy Lake on March 11 and 25 (BPB); two pairs were still present on May 31 (BPB). An Oldsquaw was unexpected at Lentz's Pond on March 28 (KC, LR) and March 29 (DP). A female Surf Scoter was discovered on MCFH on May 5-6 and provided Kentucky with its third spring record and first for eastern Kentucky (FB, Lewis Korman, Orville Litteral, ME, GE). There was a good migration of Buffleheads with impressive concentrations of 250 at MCFH on March 31, 175 there on April 16 and 150 at Cave Run Lake on March 19 (FB), providing the largest groups ever reported in Kentucky. Other sightings included a peak count of 40-50 at LP on April 7 (BPB) and 75 at McElroy Lake on March 25; a few lingered into May with one female still present at the end of the month, extending the late spring date 22 days (BPB). The Hooded Merganser migration was poor, with the exception of the 25 at Cave Run Lake on March 14 (FB); 10 birds were still there on April 9 (FB). A female with five half-grown young was observed at Chaney Lake on May 27 (BPB, DE, Richard Healy) representing the first nesting record of this species for the lake and county, as well as that part of the state. The migration flight of Red-breasted Mergansers was light with scattered small groups of less than 25 birds observed on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake through early May; peak count of 30 birds on Kentucky Lake above the dam on April 17 (BPB, DP); peak count at McElroy Lake of 15 birds on March 11 (BPB); 14 birds at MCFH on March 14 (FB); 11 on the Ohio River

at Louisville on March 21 (LR), and four in Mercer County on April 2 (KC, LR, S, JW). A total of 61 Ruddy Ducks was present at LP on March 22 (LR, KC) and the flock built up to 85 birds on April 7 (JH, BPB); Present at McElroy Lake from March 11 through the end of May with a peak of about 60 birds on April 10. Four birds were still on the lake on May 20 (BF) and five birds (four male and one female) still there on May 31 (BPB).

Hawks — Black Vultures were present in normal numbers. As usual, Turkey Vultures were present in low numbers except at the roost site in the vicinity of Bondurant where 40 were observed during the period (no date — CP), and at MCFH where 75 were counted on April 13 (FB). A few migrant Ospreys were reported: singles at LP (JH), southern Ohio County (BE, GE), and MCFH (FB). Breeding birds were observed in Livingston and Trigg counties (BPB). Two to three Mississippi Kites were seen on BWMA on May 3 (BPB); and a single bird there on May 21 (BBC). Two Bald Eagles were present in Marion County on March 23, where they had been seen for several weeks (SC); an adult bird was noted at BWMA on May 3 (BPB) and May 21 (BBC). Northern Harriers were unusually common in extreme southern Ohio County on reclaimed strip mine land with 30 present on March 5 (DN, BBC); 25 still there on March 22 and some remained throughout the month of May (KC, BE, TE); "numbers" also remained into May at the Muhlenberg County strip mine area. On May 26 a nest was found in both Ohio and Muhlenberg counties (AB, BPB). Breeding has been suspected for sometime, especially in western Kentucky, but this is the first record of a nest. Single Northern Harriers were also seen in Grayson County on March 20 (KC) and in Hopkins County on the late date of May 29 (JH). A group of 16 Broad-winged Hawks was seen in Danville, Boyle County (WK *fide* FL no date given). The single birds at Petersburg on May 25 and at Camp Ernst, Boone County on May 27 were probably breeding birds (LMc). An unusual record of a *Swainson's Hawk*, four miles north of Murray, Calloway County on May 5 was east of its normal range (MM). A few Rough-legged Hawks remained in southern Ohio County during March and early April (KC, BPB); a group of seven noted there on April 4 and one as late as April 18 (KC). The rare Merlin was seen near McElroy Lake on May 7 (BPB). The *Prairie Falcon* mentioned in *The Winter Season, 1988-1989* (KY. *Warbler*, 65: 34-35, 1989) was last seen in Ohio County on March 27 (KC, HLC). Two adult Peregrine Falcons were reported: one at Mitchell Lake, BWMA on May 4 (BPB, JTE); and another at McElroy Lake on May 27 (BPB, DE, Richard Healy).

Wild Turkey through Cranes — Five Wild Turkeys were observed near Wysox Lake, Ohio County on March 23 and one at SWMA on the same date (KC, LR); single birds in Rowan and Ohio counties on April 23 (ME, BE, respectively); and six thought to be feral birds were present in Warren County on May 10 (BF). A few Virginia Rails were reported: one flushed from SWMA on April 28 (BPB, DP); three heard calling from the cattail pond on the Homestead Mine in southern Ohio County on the same day; at least four birds at this site May 20 (BBC) and one was still calling there on May 26 (BPB, AB); and one was flushed from marshy vegetation on Mitchell Lake, BWMA on May 21 (BBC). Soras were widespread and first appeared at Lentz's Pond on March 25 (LR, KC); at least a dozen were flushed at SWMA on April 28 and was the high count there (BPB, DP); approximately five birds were present at a cattail pond on the Homestead Mine the same day. Other Sora sightings included one at

Mammoth Cave National Park on April 29 (JB, PB); one found dead in Hart County on May 13 (MS); six at BWMA on May 3-4 and one still heard at the cattail pond in Ohio County on May 20 (BPB). A fair number of Common Moorhens showed up at a few locations in May: one at Long Run County Park, Jefferson County on May 14 (S, FS); three at a cattail pond on the Homestead Mine in "early May" (Richard Healy *vide* BPB), and still present on May 24 (KC, S, BF, *et al.*); one at Standiford Airfield, Louisville on May 20 (TL); a few heard at BWMA on May 29 (BPB) and one at MCFH on May 5-6 (FB). There was a fair migration of the American Coot in south-central Kentucky during mid-March to mid-April. The birds peaked at McElroy Lake with an estimated 5000 birds there on April 10 (BPB); and 255 was the high count at LP on April 7 (JH). A few of the coots lingered fairly late: one near Danville on May 24 (FL); about five present at the end of May at McElroy Lake (BPB); two at the cattail pond in southern Ohio County through May (KC, BE, TE, BPB), and still there on June 1 (S, FS). Sandhill Cranes were migrating through Kentucky primarily between March 11-12. The birds were first heard calling over Bullitt County (BN) on March 11, while a flock of 150 birds was seen in east Louisville (M.L. Gorman *vide* LR, KC) and two flocks, totaling about 110 birds were flying along I-71, some 70 miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio (B. Evans *vide* DN). Then on March 12 about 100 birds were observed over northeast Louisville (DN), 215 over east Louisville (RB, JJ), and 18 over southwestern Jefferson County (BN); 18 birds were seen at Cave City on March 19 (MS) and four were reported over Hart County on the late date of May 13, but without details.

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration was unusually good particularly in Boone, Mercer and Warren counties. Due to heavy rains many fields were flooded and provided good habitat. Black-bellied Plovers were seen at three locations: McElroy Lake, where one was seen on April 29 (KOS), peak count of 15 birds there on May 20 (BBC) and three there on May 27 (BPB, Richard Healy, DE); eight birds at Dix Dam, Mercer County on May 23 (WK); and five birds at Swan Lake WMA on May 21 (BBC). Lesser Golden-Plovers were not as numerous this spring in western Fulton County as in 1988 with a peak of only 125-150 birds there (75 being the largest single group) on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE). Other sightings included 10 birds with a large concentration of shorebirds in a flooded field in Ohio River bottom north of Bayou, April 16-17 (BPB, DP); six birds on Schuler Lane, Oldham County on April 8 (BPB); up to 12 birds at McElroy Lake on April 29-30 (KOS) and a single bird lingered there until May 20 (BBC), extending the state's late spring date. The bird was seen there again on May 23 (Gary Boggs *vide* BPB). Single Lesser Golden-Plovers were also seen in western Boone County on April 2 and May 6 (LMc). Semipalmated Plovers were widespread and remained from April 23 through May 31 with peak counts of 75-100 at McElroy (BPB), 43 at MCFH (FB), 27 in Mercer County (FL, WK), and scattered flocks in numbers from four to 10 birds in western Boone County (LMc). Otherwise, birds were observed at the following locations: six at BWMA and five at Swan Lake WMA, both on May 4 (BPB, JTE); six plus at SWMA on April 28 (BPB, DP); "several" on sod fields on Chamberlain Lane, Jefferson County on May 6-7 (BBC); one each at Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County on May 25 (BPB, AB) and near Science Hill, Pulaski County on May 7 (JEL). An interesting spring record was the discovery of six American Avocets on Barren River

Lake on April 29 (WK, VK *et al.*). Both Yellowlegs were reported from western Fulton County to Rowan County (n. ob.); numbers ranged from one to 10 in most locations, but 50-75 Greater and 75-100 Lesser were present in western Fulton County on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE) and 50 Greater and approximately 300 Lesser were observed in a flooded field in Ohio River bottom north of Bayou, April 16-17 (BPB, DP). On April 28 about 150 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen at Muddy Slough, SWMA (DP, BPB) and the species peaked at McElroy Lake with 75-100+ birds from April 29-May 14 (BPB). Solitary Sandpipers were widespread but in low numbers. A flock of 40+ Willets was watched at Barren River Lake on April 29 (JW, DS, S, Gerry Williams) and another flock of 43 birds was noted at McElroy Lake on the same afternoon (BPB, KOS). These flocks are the largest ever recorded in Kentucky. A single Willet was also recorded at MCFH on May 5 (FB). Two Upland Sandpipers were seen at the edge of a slough in Mercer County on April 24 (FL, WK). A *Whimbrel* was photographed in a flooded field at Swan Lake SWMA on May 3 (BPB). Four *Marbled Godwits* were with the flock of Willets at McElroy Lake on April 29 (good photos) (BPB, KOS). There were three records of the Ruddy Turnstone: three birds in a flooded field in Boone County on May 13 (LMc), three in breeding plumage at McElroy Lake on May 20 (BBC), and two at Dix Dam on May 23 (first local record — WK *fide* FL). The Semipalmated Sandpiper migration at McElroy Lake was unusually good with a high count of 425+ birds on May 29 (BPB) and in the Danville area the flight was the "best spring ever" with up to 115 in a day, 75 birds were still present there on May 29 (FL, WK). Otherwise, sightings of 50-75 birds during May were seen at the following locations: BWMA, SWMA, a nearby site in Henderson County, and Paradise Steam Plant. Three Western Sandpipers (good photo of at least one) were found with a flock of Semipalmated Plovers at McElroy Lake on April 30 (BPB, DP). The earliest White-rumped Sandpiper was noted in Boone County on May 13 (LMc), although they were also noted at McElroy Lake on May 14 with a peak of 55-60 on May 25 (BPB). Other sightings included 15 birds at BWMA on May 21 (BBC), 10-12 at Paradise Steam Plant on May 18 (BPB) and eight to 10 there on May 25 (BPB, AB); "up to at least five (birds) a day" from mid-May through the period in the Danville area (FL, WK), where they reported "more than all years combined." Pectoral Sandpipers were widespread with highest concentrations of about 400 birds in Ohio River bottoms north of Bayou on April 16-17 and at Muddy Slough, SWMA on April 28 (BPB, DP). Also, the species peaked with 100+ birds at McElroy Lake on April 29 and May 5 (BPB); at least 50 in a slough in Mercer County on April 2 (n. ob.); and smaller numbers elsewhere. Dunlins were reported from only four locations in numbers from one to four with the exception of a flock of 43 or more in spring plumage at Dix Dam on May 23 (WK *fide* FL). A few Stilt Sandpipers were seen: two birds at SWMA on April 28 (BPB, DP); a flock of 13 (including one color-marked) at McElroy Lake on May 20 (BBC) and one bird remained until May 27 (BPB). A rare visitant, the *Ruff*, was discovered on a slough about four miles northeast of Harrodsburg, Mercer County on April 1 (WK, FL, later in the day by others) and provided the third record for Kentucky. A surprising flock of 102 Short-billed Dowitchers was identified in western Boone County on May 13 (LMc) and is the largest number ever recorded in the state. Small groups of two to four birds, all identified by call notes, were at the transient lakes May 5-20 (BPB, BBC) and one in Mercer County on May 15 (FL). Three birds were reported at Dix Dam on May 23 and one at McElroy Lake on

the same date, although they were reported without vocalization detail. Long-billed Dowitchers heard and observed included 22 at McElroy Lake on April 29 (KOS, BPB) and two at MCFH on May 5 (FB). The two birds at SWMA on April 28 (BPB, DP) and the flock of five at Chaney Lake (KOS) were regarded as dowitcher sp. Common Snipe were present in good numbers with maxima of 50+ at both McElroy Lake and Reelfoot NWR. There were more reports of the American Woodcock than usual: singles in Morgan County March 12 (ME, GE), and BPS on March 20 (KC); adult and a nest with four eggs on Peabody strip mine pit, Ohio County March 25 (BF); adult with two young at Blue Grass Industrial Park, Jefferson County on April 20 (FK, JK); one bird in Calloway County on May 5 (C. Mowery *vide* CP) and May 6 (CP). A Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Swan Lake on May 3 (BPB). A *Red-necked Phalarope* was photographed at McElroy Lake on May 20 (BBC, BPB) and was seen again on May 23 (Gary Boggs *vide* BPB). This represents Kentucky's first spring record.

Gulls, Terns — A Laughing Gull was recorded at the Falls of the Ohio on April 23 (DN) and three birds were seen on Lake Barkley above the dam on May 21 (BBC). An early Franklin's Gull was detected at Lake Barkley March 4 (DN, BBC) and at Kentucky and Barkley Dams March 5 (BPB); others in numbers from one to two were found along the Ohio River at Cox's Park April 12 (DP), Smithland, Kentucky April 13 (DN, MB) and at McElroy Lake May 20 (BPB). The Bonaparte's Gull migration was unusually good particularly in western Kentucky during April 9-13. An impressive 9000-10,000 birds gathered at the roost site at Kentucky Dam (DN, MB, BPB) and was the largest concentration of this species ever recorded in the state. In addition, this gull was reported in smaller numbers at the following locations: western Boone County (LMc), Danville area (FL, WK), Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County (JEL), floodwaters of Licking River, Morgan, County (ME, GE), and at MCFH (FB). The warm front on April 16-18 triggered a northward movement of thousands of Ring-billed Gulls in the Kentucky Lake area as only 2000-2500 were found on April 17 (BPB). A few birds lingered into May at both MCFH (FB) and Boone County (LMc), while "several hundred" were still seen at Kentucky Lake on May 20-21 (BBC). A few Thayer's Gulls were present despite the warm weather in March and April: an adult and a first-year bird were at Barkley Dam on March 5 (DN, BBC, BPB); a third-year bird at Barkley Dam on March 4 (probably the same bird as was seen on January 22 — BPB); and a first-year bird at Shippingport Island on April 1 (DN). The Glaucous Gull reported below Kentucky Dam on March 4 was the only one observed during the period (DN, *et al.*). A photograph of the Great Black-backed Gull was reviewed and verifies the validity of the sighting on February 12, 1989 (KY. Warbler, 65:36, 1989).

Caspian Terns were widely scattered and only present in small numbers (3-18) April 9-29 with the higher figure at the Falls of the Ohio (LR, DN, BM). Five Common Terns were seen at McElroy Lake on May 5 (BPB), while single birds were well seen on Kentucky Lake above the dam on May 21 (BBC) and at MCFH May 5 (FB). Forster's Terns were present in small numbers with the first one observed in western Boone County on the rather early date of April 9 (LMc); two were noted at Kentucky Lake on April 12 (DN, MB), 10 birds there on April 18 (BPB, DP); one bird below McAlpine Dam on April 19 (LR); about 15 at Barren River Lake on April 29 (KOS); three at McElroy Lake on April

30 (BPB, DP) and one there on May 20 (BBC). Six Least Terns were seen on Mitchell Lake, BWMA on May 21 and were the only ones reported (BBC). Black Terns were observed in numbers only at McElroy Lake, where the species was present May 5 through May 29 (BPB), and highest counts there were 90-100 birds on May 26 (Gary Boggs *fide* BPB) and 30 on May 20 (BF). A flock of 10 birds was seen on Lake Barkley above the dam on May 20 (BBC) and two birds were seen at a slough in Mercer County on May 10 (FL, WK) and one at Dix Dam on May 27 (WK).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — Two Black-billed Cuckoos were seen at Joe Creason Park, Louisville on May 7 (JB, PB, BPB) and one on SHF, May 17 (BPB). Also, a pair with two young were discovered at Joe Creason Park on May 24 — a new breeding locale (AB). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were also scarce, or observers failed to mention them. A few sightings were made in the Danville area (FL, WK), Barren River State Resort Park (KOS), at Green River in southern Ohio County (BE, GE), and in Calloway County (*fide* CP). This species has shown some decrease locally in recent years. A young Great Horned Owl fledged from the nest about May 5 in Mercer County (FL) and two young were observed in Joe Creason Park during May (JB, PB). This was an interesting spring for seeing Short-eared Owls. One bird was observed in LaRue County on March 5 (SC); a pair noted in the Ohio River bottom in Livingston County, five miles north of Bayou on the late date of April 9 (BPB); numerous on Peabody's Homestead Mine in southern Ohio County all through March with a high count of 31 birds on March 13 (KC) and 25 there on April 4 (KC); three birds were seen as late as April 25 (KC). A nest with five young Short-eared Owls was found in southern Ohio County on the Peabody Homestead Mine on May 18 (S) and established Kentucky's first breeding record for this species. A second nest was found in Muhlenberg County on May 25 (BPB, AB). (More details of these nests in the nesting season report). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was found impaled on a barbed wire fence in northern Lyon County by Major Guess. The bird was turned over to the Land Between the Lakes Nature Center on March 18. The owl was rehabilitated and released in LBL (Ed Ray *fide* BPB). An interesting and noteworthy record was that of two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers observed in the Daniel Boone National Forest, Whitley County on May 7 (Steve Kickert, JEL).

Flycatchers through Swallows — Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were found in three locations: Calloway County on May 6 (JTE, R. Head *fide* CP), one near Hamlin, Calloway County on May 21 (BBC) and in the vicinity of the Louisville Country Club on May 28 (AB). Eastern Wood-Pewees were late in arriving and were first recorded in the vicinity of Barren River on April 29 (KOS). Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noted at Danville on May 15 (FL) and at Joe Creason Park on May 18 (AB) and at least two were seen well and heard on SHF on May 24 (BPB). Two Alder Flycatchers were heard singing their 'wee-bee-o' song on SHF on May 17 (AB). Also, a Willow Flycatcher was heard there on May 24 (BPB) and singing birds were noted near Petersburg, Boone County, May 25 (LMc). What happened to the Least Flycatcher? Did observers fail to report them, or was the species scarce? Only single birds were reported at Louisville on May 18 (AB), and in Morgan County on May 12 (ME, GE). Horned Larks were found on reclaimed strip mine land during the period in Morgan (ME, GE), Ohio (BE, TE, KC, *et al.*) and Muhlenberg counties, with the earliest observed on March 27 (JH) in the latter county.

The first Purple Martins returned to Brigadoon Farm, Barren County (RS) and Leitchfield, Grayson County on March 25 (KC, A. Wilson), but arrival dates were much later elsewhere and numbers were reduced. The earliest Tree Swallow was noted in southern Ohio County on March 11 (R. Healy, R. Cassel, BPB) and another at MCFH on March 14 (FB), providing Kentucky with its earliest spring dates. The species was widespread (m. ob.) and the largest concentration occurred at MCFH on April 5 with 350 birds (FB). The Northern Rough-winged Swallow elicited few comments, but two birds arrived early at Pulaski County Park on March 22 (JEL) and established an early state date. A Bank Swallow at the same site and date was also an early arrival (JEL). Although Cliff Swallows were reported from Morgan and Rowan counties in the east to Calloway in the west, the only concentration observed was the "hundreds — too numerous to count" under two bridges on Rough River, Grayson County on April 4 (KC). This species arrived later than normal. Apparently a late movement of swallows was noted at McElroy Lake on the evening of May 7 where a concentration of 1000 was present. This group included "lots of Barn and Bank Swallows and a smaller number of Purple Martins, and at least one Cliff and a dozen Tree Swallows". Strangely enough, no Rough-winged were present (BPB).

Crows through Shrikes — There were several interesting sightings of the Fish Crow: two birds at both Kentucky and Barkley Dams and also heard along Little Bayou de Chen in Fulton County on April 8 (BPB, CP, JTE); along the Ohio River in bottoms just below Smithland, and in bottoms adjacent to Smithland Dam, on April 9 and at BWMA May 3-4 (BPB). In Letcher County, at Bad Branch, a pair of Common Ravens nested again and were observed on April 14 (BPB); and one was heard calling at Natural Bridge State Park, May 5 (JB, PB).

There were two reports of Bewick's Wrens: one at Madisonville April 26 (JH) and one in Hart County on May 13 (MS). A Sedge Wren was heard calling in rural Ballard County near BWMA on May 21 (BBC) and another heard in western Ohio County on May 26 (BPB). A Marsh Wren was seen along Mitchell Lake, BWMA on May 3, 4 and 21 (BPB, BBC, respectively). The *Catharus* thrush migration apparently was below normal, or went unnoticed. The few reports indicated their migration occurred primarily April 29-May 15. The Swainson's Thrush was the most common of the transient thrushes in the Madisonville area (JH). A Veery at Lyndon, Jefferson County on April 23 was the earliest of the few reported (PK). Wood thrushes were scarce in some locations while American Robins were numerous. Gray Catbirds arrived on schedule, but numbers were low. Water Pipits are rarely seen in the Danville area, but were observed there on a number of occasions including one at the slough in Mercer County (no date given — FL, WK). The species was numerous at both Chaney and McElroy Lakes and peaked with 150 birds at McElroy in late March and up to 100 there in late April; one was still present at Chaney on May 14 (BPB). The Cedar Waxwing migration was well underway in east Louisville, where flocks of at least 1500 congregated April 23 (DN), while March migration was evident at Madisonville where a flock of 175 gathered March 17 (JH); and smaller groups remained for several days. Cedar Waxwings were still in flocks at BPS the last of May (KC) and groups of 25 were noted regularly at Cave City and at Mammoth Cave National Park (MS). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from only four counties: Barren, Calloway, Ohio and Mercer.

Vireos through Warblers — There were few comments on the Vireos.

White-eyed Vireos were first recorded at Madisonville on April 16 (JH); fair numbers were seen in Calloway County on May 6 (m. ob.). New breeding locations for the Bell's Vireo included Muhlenberg and Ohio counties with an active nest in each county thus extending its nesting range ESE of the previously known colony in Union County (BPB, AB). Solitary, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos were present at Bernheim Forest on April 22 (BM). High numbers of Philadelphia Vireos were seen at Joe Creason Park (no date given — JB, PB).

There were mixed comments on the warbler migration and ranged from "poor" to "wonderful". A Blue-winged Warbler arrived at BPS on March 27 and established an early state date (KC). Six male Golden-winged Warblers were seen at both BWMA and LBL May 3 and 4, respectively (BPB). Two male Brewster's Warblers were seen at BWMA on May 3 (BPB). Fifteen Tennessee Warblers were seen at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 27 in a two and one-half hour period (MS), while 28 species of warblers were observed in the Barren River area by KOS members April 29. Single Orange-crowned Warblers were present on two dates in LBL, April 18 (BPB, DP) and May 3 (BPB); and three were at Joe Creason Park during the period (no date given — JB, PB). The Yellow-throated Warbler was reported as declining within the county (Hopkins) partly due to destruction of habitat (JH). Two Pine Warblers were recorded at BPS on March 5-27 (KC); also present on March 12 in Morgan County (ME, GE); and at Madisonville March 14-May (JH). A Swainson's Warbler was heard singing at Breaks Interstate Park, Pike County on April 29 (ME, GE); also, one heard singing along Panther Creek, Calloway County on May 4 (BPB, JTE). High numbers of Northern Waterthrushes were observed in Joe Creason Park (JB, PB), and four to seven Louisiana Waterthrushes were found along North Fork in Morgan County, where some were nesting on April 7 (ME, GE). A Connecticut Warbler was heard in Oldham County on May 14 (S, FS) and one noted at SHF on May 17 (BPB). Single Mourning Warblers were found in three different locations in the Louisville area on May 13 and 17 (BPB), May 19 (JB, PB); and in Mercer County on May 20 (FL, WK).

Tanagers through Finches — Scarlet Tanagers showed up at Bernheim Forest on April 22 and in Morgan County on April 23 and high numbers in early May at Joe Creason Park and there were several May records in the Madisonville area where it is a rare summer resident. Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted at BPS as early as April 4 (KC); and high numbers were at Joe Creason Park (JB, PB). Small numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were reported only from the Danville area (FL), southern Ohio County (KC, S, BF *et al.*), and in Calloway County (*vide* CP). Indigo Buntings were considered common in Davies County on May 14 (BE). Dickcissels seemed on the low side and late in arriving with the earliest observed near Petersburg May 6 (LMc).

The sparrow migration was also late. Two Bachman's Sparrows were noted at the regular location in Calloway County on May 6 (JTE *vide* CP). A *Clay-colored Sparrow* at SHF on May 17 provided Kentucky with its second record (BPB, BM, DP) (photo and good documentations). Small numbers of Vesper Sparrows were present at Louisville, SWMA and on the Homestead Mine during the normal period of migration (BPB) and a small group of Savannah Sparrows was seen on Chamberlain Lane, Louisville on May 10 (S, FS). Grasshopper Sparrow migration was noted on the Homestead Mine on April 18 when about 50 birds were seen (KC). A singing colony of Henslow's was discovered in extreme western Ohio County on Peabody's Ken Mine on May 26 (AB, BPB); and a single

bird heard singing on Peabody's Sinclair Mine in Muhlenberg County on May 18, but could not be relocated (BPB). A noteworthy record was the *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* at McElroy Lake where it was observed for some 20 minutes on May 20 (BBC). One to two Fox Sparrows were noted at four widely scattered locations March 18 to March 30 (JK, MB, KC, LMc). One or two Lincoln Sparrows were recorded in the Danville area on May 13 (FL) and at West Liberty, Morgan County May 12 (ME). The Dark-eyed Junco was last recorded at Madisonville on April 26 (JH). Two Lapland Longspurs were rather late as they flew overhead at McElroy Lake on March 25 (BPB).

The Bobolink migration was good and widespread from May 3-11. The earliest concentration was at Science Hill with a peak of 50+ birds on May 6 (JEL). Other sizeable flocks included 100 in Calloway County on May 6 (MM), 200 there on May 7 (CP), 35-50 at Louisville (S, FS) and 50+ in Bowling Green (BPB); and smaller groups elsewhere. A small group of Brewer's Blackbirds was present in farmland at Bowling Green on March 25-April 10 and a single male noted at SHF on March 26 (BPB).

Purple Finches were only numerous at BPS where 75 gathered on March 12-19 (KC). One bird lingered at a feeder in Hopkins County until May 20 (B. West *vide* JH). There were two reports of Evening Grosbeaks: one at West Liberty on March 26 (ME, GE) and one in Calloway County on May 5 (C. Mowery *vide* CP). House Finches were again common at Louisville (S) and at Madisonville (JH); and one bird was heard singing in Whitesburg, Letcher County for probably a new county record (BPB).

Addenda — The two to three Long-eared Owls which were seen in southern Ohio County January 8-29 (BPB, KC *et al.*) and the five in eastern Muhlenberg County on February 11 (BPB) were inadvertently omitted from The Winter Season, 1988-89 (*Ky. Warbler*, 65:36, 1989).

Contributors — Alan Barron (AB), Mary B. Bauer (MB), Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Robert K. Brown (RB), Fred Busroe (FB), H. L. Clay, Jr. (HLC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Susan L. Cruse (SC), Brenda Eaden (BE), Tony Eaden (TE), Diane Ebel (DE), Gary Elam (GE), Mary K. Elam (ME), Jackie Elmore (JEL), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), Blaine Ferrell (BF), J. W. Hancock (JH), Judi Jones (JJ), Wm. Kemper (WK), P. Klemenz (PK), Wendell Kingsolver (WK), Virginia Kingsolver (VK), Frank H. Krull (FK), John Krull (JK), Colin H. Lindsay (CL), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Tim Love (TL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Barry Nichols (BN), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Donald Parker (DP), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Jim Williams (JW). — 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241

BALD EAGLE COUNT FOR 1989 IN KENTUCKY

DAVID YANCY, JAMES DURELL AND LYNDA ANDREWS

The target dates of January 13-14 for the 1989 eagle census were within the time frame of January 5-19 set for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl census. Weather was mild, with little or no ice. A total of 207 Bald Eagles and one immature Golden Eagle was reported.

Immature eagles increased from 60 to 75 (still 36%), while mature birds increased from 104 to 129. The two-year decline was reversed, yielding the highest count except in 1984 and 1986 when Reelfoot Lake was frozen.

The mild winter did not keep the eagles farther north as presumed in earlier years.

Again, Barlow Bottoms near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and Obion and Mayfield Creek bottoms were not censused. These were very productive in 1984.

Table 1 summarizes the 1989 census data and comparisons with some earlier high records. Ten parties reported 283 other raptors. Counts for 1988, 1987 and 1986 are in parentheses: Black Vulture 7 (0, 16, 0); Turkey Vulture 9 (0, 1, 0); Northern Harrier 5 (1, 6, 7); Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 (3, 1, 2); Cooper's Hawk 3 (0, 2, 0); Red-shouldered Hawk 5 (3, 1, 3); Red-tailed Hawk 143 (55, 40, 68); Rough-legged Hawk 1 (2, 4, 3); American Kestrel 108 (57, 99, 105) and Common Barn Owl 1.

Table 1. Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 5-19, 1989 and some comparisons with earlier high counts.

| ROUTE | 1989 | | | EARLIER HIGH RECORDS | |
|---|------|------|-----------------|----------------------------|------|
| | Ad. | Imm. | Total | Number | Year |
| LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | 35 | 21 | 56 | 67 | 1987 |
| MISSISSIPPI RIVER | 31 | 20 | 51 | 72 | 1984 |
| OHIO RIVER, Wickliffe to north Livingston Co. (Carrsville) | 9 | 3 | 12 ¹ | 89 | 1986 |
| OHIO RIVER, Carrsville-Owensboro | 10 | 4 | 14 ² | 13 | 1989 |
| OHIO RIVER, Battletown-Louisville | 2 | | 2 | 5 | 1986 |
| OHIO RIVER, Louisville-Markland Dam | | | | 3 | 1987 |
| BERNHEIM FOREST | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1989 |
| ROUGH RIVER LAKE | 1 | | 1 | | |
| NOLIN RIVER LAKE | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1989 |
| BARREN RIVER LAKE | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1989 |
| GREEN RIVER LAKE | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 1986 |
| DALE HOLLOW | 19 | 16 | 38 ⁴ | 38 | 1989 |
| LAKE CUMBERLAND | 3 | | 3 | 14? | 1983 |
| CUMBERLAND R. DAM to Burkesville | 2 | | 2 | 8 | 1986 |
| CAVE RUN LAKE | 4 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 1989 |
| GRAYSON LAKE | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1989 |
| LAUREL LAKE | 5 | | 5 | 9 | 1985 |
| MARTIN'S FORK | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 1988 |
| TOTAL | 129 | 75 | 207+ | | |

1 Includes eight eagles at Ballard Waterfowl Area.

2 One immature Golden Eagle. Three Golden Eagles were reported at Mammoth Cave on December 29.

3 Adult seen with immature tagged eagle from Monroe Reservoir, Indiana, December 17 above Markland Dam.

4 Includes three Bald Eagles of unknown age.

Assistance of 115 participants in 63 parties is gratefully acknowledged. These volunteers represented the Kentucky Ornithological Society, federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Kentucky Department of Parks, Audubon Society, Bernheim Forest, Owensboro Area Museum and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

— Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Frankfort 40601 and the Kentucky Ornithological Society, 1027 Algonquin, Frankfort.

BOOK REVIEW

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KENTUCKY, by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Anne L. Stamm and Brainard L. Palmer-Ball, Jr.; illustrated by Ray Harm, Alan Barron and Sherri Evans. (Published by K.O.S., 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241) 84 pp. \$6.00 (\$5.00 for K.O.S. members) plus 5% sales tax for Kentucky residents.

This long-awaited publication is the most useful contribution to Kentucky ornithology since the publication of *The Birds of Kentucky* by Robert Mengel in 1965. The three coauthors are active birders and well qualified to produce this work. Dr. Monroe, a noted authority on avian taxonomy and evolution, was the compiler of *Summary of Occurrence of Birds of Kentucky*, published in 1969. Mrs. Stamm has compiled the seasonal reports for *The Kentucky Warbler* for several years and is the Kentucky subregional editor for *American Birds*. Mr. Palmer-Ball, Jr. has been a state coordinator for the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas Project and has extensive experience in the field. The purpose of the publication being reviewed here is "to update the occurrence and abundance of Kentucky's birdlife."

The introduction includes two Kentucky maps, the first showing sites referred to in the text and the second showing the avifaunal regions. The terminology used in describing bird species in the state and their levels of abundance and conservation status are clearly defined in the introduction. It is difficult to precisely describe abundance and distribution because of habitat variation, climatic change, migration, manipulation by man and other factors. A good example of this difficulty and of the careful effort to give adequate information may be seen in the description of the Dickcissel on pages 54 and 55.

This annotated checklist consists of two major sections, the species accounts and the bar graphs. The checklist includes 340 bird species, including eight extinct or extirpated species and six introduced species. In addition 10 species are placed on a hypothetical list. There is even a list of 10 species which may be recorded in Kentucky in the future, with suggestions as to where they are most likely to occur. The species accounts provide a storehouse of information on abundance, distribution, habitat preference, etc. The excerpt of the description of the House Wren is inserted below as an example. The asterisk preceding the name indicates that the species breeds in Kentucky.

"*HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*). — Fairly common to common transient, locally rare to fairly common summer resident, extremely rare in winter. Recorded statewide in migration in a great variety of habitats with brushy cover. Breeding locally throughout the state except the southernmost counties and portions of the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains; most often found near human habitations, but also occurs in other semi-open habitats. This species has been expanding its breeding range to the south, formerly (1920) nesting only along the northern counties (Mengel:343-345; Stamm, KW 27:47-56, 1951). There are several winter records from scattered localities in central Kentucky, but the species does not regularly overwinter in the state."

Considerable emphasis is placed on conservation, both at the state and federal levels. The terms "endangered, threatened, special concern, and category 2" are used to indicate conservation status, and these terms are defined in the introduction.

The bar graphs comprise nine pages of the publication. By the use of an asterisk and a numbering system for the four avifaunal regions, the

authors have shown the region or regions in which a species is found and also the region or regions in which a species breeds. Each month of the year is included in the bar graph, and earliest and latest dates of occurrence for each species are inserted. Abundance (common, fairly common, uncommon, rare and extremely rare) is indicated by the degree of shading of the bar and by the use of dots. It is somewhat difficult to see the printed distinction between common, fairly common, and uncommon on some of the bars. Color would have added to the clarity of the bars but would have also added to the cost of the publication. It would be helpful if the bar graph could be published later as a separate entity so that it could be inserted in a field guide.

Some questions and statements concerning the ability of others to identify birds in the field are made when they do not appear to add any information to the text, but this is the prerogative of the writer. Close scrutiny of all reported sightings is desirable and strengthens reliability. Very few errors were noted in the text, and they were of a minor nature, such as "covies" instead of coveys.

We are indebted to the authors for searching through the mass of ornithological data which has accumulated through the years and for correcting errors made by writers, editors and printers. One not acquainted with this type of research is not aware of the time and effort involved. Much information has been presented in a space-saving format, and the reader has been provided with an instrument for quickly determining the occurrence, distribution, breeding status, habitat preference and conservation status of the birds of Kentucky.

— H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

FIELD NOTES

FIRST BREEDING RECORD OF THE SHORT-EARED OWL IN KENTUCKY

The Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) has been considered an uncommon to rare transient and winter resident in Kentucky. The dates of its occurrence have been October 10-March 17 and on occasion as late as April 13 and 24 (B.L. Monroe, Jr., *et al.* 1988, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*). During the fall of 1988 and early winter of 1989, however, the Short-eared Owl was present in unusually large numbers in extreme southern Ohio County on reclaimed strip mine land owned by Peabody Coal Company. Clay counted as many as 25 owls still present on April 4, 1989. A few owls remained throughout April and early May. We knew that this owl migrates both "regularly and irregularly," regularly in the fall when it moves out of its northern part of its range toward the south, and irregularly when it remains for two or three years where it has found a plentiful supply of food (E.H. Forbush 1929, *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*). Therefore, checking for nests seemed advisable because rodents had been observed frequently. Stamm volunteered to assist Clay in searching for a nest, and on May 18, 1989 at 7:45 a.m. CDT, we arrived at the strip mine land along Little Bend Road (east of Hwy. 369). Clay felt that we should search near the clump of Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) saplings at the right of the road where she had

previously found the owls roosting. We looked there in all the likely spots, but without results.

Brenda Eaden joined us at approximately 9:00 a.m. to help in the search. Stamm decided to check on the hillside beyond the locusts, while Clay and Eaden looked in the rolling fields to the west. The northward sloping hillside, where Stamm walked, was rather rough with gullies here and there and the vegetative cover was 12-15 inches high. After trudging through this area for about 40 minutes a Short-eared Owl flushed two feet in front of her. She watched the adult owl take off and fly at some distance before it dropped to the ground near a shrub. Then, peering over a clump of timothy grass (*Phleum pratense*) in front of her, she found a nest of the Short-eared Owl with five nestlings.

The owls varied in size; two of the smallest ones were probably two-three days old, while the two largest ones appeared to be about six days old. The nestlings were rather naked, with downy light fuzz on their heads and backs. The two largest ones had tiny feathers about one-eighth of an inch in length about to emerge from the sheath.

The nest was on bare ground situated beside a clump of timothy grass and orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*). When the adult bird was off the nest, the young were exposed to the sun and only slightly protected by a few blades of tall grass. It was surprising to find the nest out in the open and made completely of dried weed stalk and heavy grasses; it was approximately one-quarter of a mile from the road. Other plantings in the nearby surroundings were red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), white clover (*T. repens*), birdfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), and yellow tall clover (*T. sp.*).

We did not visit the nest site until May 24, when we found only two nestlings. The birds had grown in size during the past six days and were then a fluffy yellow-buff color with dark brown streakings. Their faces were black with eyes open, and they showed no fear. We searched the nearby areas for the other three young, but they could not be found. When we arrived that morning before going to the nest site, we saw an adult Short-eared Owl perched on an iron post at some distance beyond the nest. We watched the owl from Little Bend Road and after some time saw it fly to the ground beyond the nest. We assumed it to be the male, but this was not certain.

What happened to the three nestlings? Were there cannibalistic tendencies among the larger nestmates as reported by James Alder of Ponteland Newcastle-on-Tyne (*vide* Collingwood Ingram, *Auk*, 79:715, 1962), or did the young just "secrete themselves some distance away" (E. Armstrong, *Auk*, 76:560, 1959)? Whatever the case, the finding of the Short-eared Owl nest established the first known breeding record for Kentucky.

— ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241 and
KATHRYN W. CLAY, 434 Mallard Creek Road, Louisville, Kentucky
40207.

LARGE CONCENTRATION OF SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS

While observing birds at a flooded field in western Boone County on May 13, 1989, I noticed a particularly large group of Short-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*). After twice counting the flock, it was determined that 102 dowitchers were present. Nearly all of the birds ap-

peared to be in breeding plumage. Small groups were flushed on several occasions in order to hear their distinctive call notes. The birds were observed from as close as 30 feet. Among other shorebirds present with this group were three Ruddy Turnstones and one White-rumped Sandpiper. It is believed that this flock represents the largest concentration of Short-billed Dowitchers recorded in a single flock in Kentucky.

—LEE K. McNEELY, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005.

FIRST REPORTED NESTING OF BROWN CREEPER IN KENTUCKY

The Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) is a fairly common transient and winter resident throughout Kentucky. In addition, there are a handful of late spring and summer records that lie beyond the normal dates of occurrence including an early June record from Murphy's Pond, Hickman County and August records from Henderson, Jefferson and Whitley counties (Monroe *et al.* 1988. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*). The species was reported in summer from Big Black Mountain, Harlan County, by Breiding (1947. *Ky. Warbler* 23:37-40), although Mengel (1965. *The Birds of Kentucky*, American Ornithologists' Union Ornithological Monographs, No. 3) regarded this observation with skepticism.

Small numbers of Brown Creepers have been found nesting in permanently inundated swamplands in several locations in southern Illinois (J. Robinson per. comm.), one location in southeastern Missouri (Widmann. 1907. *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis* 17(1):1-288), and several locations in west Tennessee (J. Robinson pers. comm.). These observations have prompted the speculation that the species should nest in similar habitat in western Kentucky, as well.

On June 29, 1986, Palmer-Ball, Marc and Sherri Evans and Cathy Justis visited Axe Lake Swamp, located approximately three miles west of Barlow in southern Ballard County, to census the Great Blue Heron rookery there. During our census, several Brown Creepers were observed foraging in the trees of the swamp, and at least one group of no less than four individuals was observed that appeared to be a family group. Although some of these birds were followed and watched, positive evidence could not be observed.

On June 2, 1988, Palmer-Ball and Haag revisited Axe Lake Swamp to census the Great Blue Heron rookery and attempt to confirm nesting of creepers there. Over the course of about six hours of observation, we were successful in locating approximately a dozen creepers including two family groups consisting of adults and fully grown young, as well as a pair of birds building a nest. Both family groups were comprised of from four to six birds. One group was studied for nearly a half-hour as the adult birds repeatedly fed the wing-fluttering fledglings as they followed the parents through the trees. Later in the day, a pair of creepers was observed carrying nesting material to a vertical opening in an old cypress snag standing in several feet of water at the edge of the swamp. The tree was dead and appeared to have been struck by lightning and burned. The nest itself was located behind a large splinter of outer wood that had separated from the inner portion of the trunk. It was built approximately six feet above the water and was composed of small sticks and stems along with other plant material. Nesting material being carried by the birds appeared to be finer and softer, indicating that the nest was nearly completed.

Axe Lake Swamp itself is unique. The open water area of the lake is less than fifty acres in size, but it is surrounded by nearly five hundred acres of permanently inundated bottomland swamp. The dominant tree species is Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) although there is also an abundance of Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). This is the largest of its kind in Kentucky. It is unknown exactly what attraction is present to creepers in this habitat type in the Mississippi Valley, but the presence of a relatively unbroken canopy over such an extensive area of water may produce a cooling effect that makes summering tolerable for this northern species.

These observations represent the first reported nesting of Brown Creepers in Kentucky. It would not seem unlikely that this population has been present in Axe Lake Swamp for a number of years. In addition, the late spring and summer records of creepers in various parts of western Kentucky may also indicate the occurrence of nesting in other areas.

We would like to express our thanks to Mr. John Evans of the Axe Lake Swamp Hunt Club for allowing us to visit the swamp.

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., and WENDELL R. HAAG, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 407 Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

PRAIRIE FALCON IN KENTUCKY

Perhaps the most significant ornithological event of the winter season in Kentucky is the occurrence of a Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) at a reclaimed strip-mine site in southern Ohio County just south of Cool Springs. The bird was first seen on 12 November 1988 by Brenda and Tony Eaden and Kathryn Clay, although the observation of the flying bird was too brief to permit absolute identification (Clay, *Ky. Warbler* 65:23, 1989).

Alerted to the possibility of a Prairie Falcon at the site, Brainard Palmer-Ball and Donald Parker visited the site on 16 December and noted the bird in flight, obtaining sufficient details to identify the bird as a Prairie Falcon. Palmer-Ball's notes mention the dark wing-lining pattern (viewed several times), the light underparts with streaking ("not so boldly streaked as an imm. Peregrine [*Falco peregrinus*]") but with very white throat, tail pattern ("medium brown, slightly reddish with the sun shining down through it with numerous dark, narrow bands"), and the noticeable "teardrop" on the face, which was "not nearly as broad and bold as a Peregrine."

A Christmas Count was established by Palmer-Ball on 26 December, primarily to take advantage of the large raptor concentration at the site; most of the 11 participants obtained at least brief (although mostly unsatisfactory) glimpses of the elusive falcon in flight (Paradise count, *Ky. Warbler* 65: 14).

On four occasions between 31 December and 27 March 1989, Kathryn Clay (three times accompanied by Herbert Clay) noted the bird again, always in flight; on several occasions it was harassed by Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), and one time it stooped and caught a Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*).

During all the preceding observations, the bird was only observed in flight; no satisfactory photographs had been obtained for confirmation. On 28 January, we visited the site early in the morning (8 a.m., CST) and

found the bird perched in a bare tree just west of the main highway (Ky. 369) through the site. With bright sunlight at our backs, we approached the bird, obtaining 19 photographs with a Vivitar 210 mm lens; unfortunately, the bird permitted an approach only to about 75 feet, at which time it darted through the trees on our right and disappeared over the hill to the southeast. The junior author obtained the photos while the senior author made careful notes of field marks (through 8x35 binoculars). When perched, the bird was facing us, and the whitish underparts with light streaking posterior to the throat were noticeable; the narrow tear-drop in the facial area and the light superciliary line were also evident several times whenever the bird turned its head. The bill appeared dark, but the cere area was not specifically noted, which might have been useful for aging. When the bird flew, the back appeared to be uniformly gray; the entire underwing covert area appeared dark with no discernible contrast of axillars. We could not notice any tail pattern either perched or in flight.

Even in the closest photograph, the bird is quite small. Enlargement of the picture reveals faint streaking below on the light underparts, but the bird is directly facing the camera and the facial area cannot be seen. However, those features noticeable in this photograph along with the field notes serve to confirm the identification (with concurrence of Bruce Peterjohn, Middlewestern Prairie regional editor for *American Birds*).

The latest spring record for this bird, to our knowledge, is the 27 March one listed above. These records constitute the first for the species in Kentucky.

—BURT L. MONROE, JR., and MARK S. MONROE, 12204 Ridge Road, Anchorage 40223.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society to be held at Cumberland Falls State Park, 22-24 September. Make your reservations for rooms early. If you have information you would like to share with the group at the Friday evening meeting, please contact Virginia Kingsolver, Program Chairperson, Route #1, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311 as soon as possible.

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THE COVER

We thank Jeff Flam for the photograph of the Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) taken on July 29, 1989 at Honker Lake in the Land Between the Lakes.

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1989

ANNE L. STAMM

The summer temperature in Kentucky during June was about normal while in July it averaged slightly above normal and humidity was unusually high during much of the month. Rainfall was above normal in both months over much of the state. In Bowling Green the heavy rainfall raised the water levels at McElroy and Chaney Lakes. The lakes and rivers in western Kentucky were high too, thus limiting shorebird habitat. The Falls of the Ohio was inundated for much of the summer period, causing herons to disperse and probably limiting breeding of ground nesting species until later in July.

One feature of the season was that a number of birds lingered beyond their normal departure dates, and some species of ducks summered at the transient lakes. The increase in field work during the nesting season resulted in the finding of new breeding locations for some species of birds. The find of the season goes to Jeff Flam for the observation of a Roseate Spoonbill at Honker Lake in LBL.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; CGNHP = Cumberland Gap National Historical Park; Duck Island WMA = Duck Island Wildlife Management Area, Trigg County on Lake Barkley; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; LP = Lake Pewee; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; Reelfoot NWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; Swan Lake WMA = Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area, Ballard County. The transient lakes are Chaney and McElroy Lakes, Bowling Green, Warren County.

Grebes through Spoonbills — A Pied-billed Grebe was noted at Martin's Fork Lake, Harlan County on June 20 (AB, AM); up to three birds summered at McElroy Lake, Warren County and an immature appeared there on July 4 (BPB). A single Horned Grebe, with an injured wing, was present at McElroy Lake throughout the period (BPB). Five Double-crested Cormorants were observed at McAlpine Dam, Louisville on June 10 (LR) and two were present during most of June and July at Kentucky Lake Islands near Hamlin, Calloway County (J. T. Erwin *vide* CP). Two Least Bitterns were observed on the cattail marsh on PHSM on July 16 (KC, HCL) and again on July 17 (KC, A. Wilson), but *seven* (4 adults, 3 appeared to be birds of the year) there on August 3 (BPB, AB); and one noted at McElroy Lake on July 16 (BPB, DP, D. Ebel).

No censuses of the Great Blue Heron rookeries were taken this summer. This species was reported from various locations in the state, but the four birds at Rock Springs, Bracken County on June 8 (LMc) were of special interest since we have few records, if any, from that county. A single Great Egret was seen flying over Hebron, Boone County on June 7 (LMc) while the next report was of 100 birds observed in three ponds along the levee in Fulton County on July 17 (SK, MS); three birds at BWMA on July 28 (BPB) and fewer than usual were at Peal Land Wildlife Area (CP). Single post-breeding birds began showing up on July 28-30 on a slough along the Ohio River above Cairo, Illinois (BPB); and at Mayfair Basins, Louisville (LR, BPB). A single Snowy Egret was seen at Dix Dam, Mercer County on July 3 and is the first record for that area (WK, C. Kohler *vide* FL). Another bird observed flying over the

channel below McAlpine Dam on July 19 (LR) and at least eight noted at Swan Lake WMA, and a total of 17 in a nearby flooded slough along the Ohio River above Cairo, Illinois, Ballard County (BPB). In three ponds along the levee in Fulton County, approximately 200 Little Blue Herons (both adults and immatures) were seen on July 17 (SK, MS); 30 adults and 20 immatures were present at BWMA on July 28, and 15 (8 adults and 7 immatures), plus two calicos were seen at Swan Lake WMA on the same date (BPB). Also, 12 immatures and one adult bird were noted at Kentucky Lake near Hamlin (no date given — J. T. Edwin *vide* CP); up to six immatures and four adults observed near Shippingport Island and the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County on July 18-28 (LR); and one at Duck Island WMA, Trigg County on Lake Barkley on July 28 (BPB). Although there was no mention of breeding Cattle Egrets, several small groups were observed as follows: four in flight in Graves County on July 10 (CP), 11 in Hickman County on July 19 (CP); two or three at Peal Land Wildlife Area during most of the period (CP) and small groups in Ballard/Carlisle counties on July 28 (BPB). A pair of Green-backed Herons nested at BPS (KC); singles were observed at Wysox Lake, Ohio County and at Caneyville, Grayson County on June 18 and 19, respectively (KC); and one to three birds at three locations in Jefferson County July 15-29 (LR). The species continued to remain in low numbers. The high water on the Ohio River at Louisville caused the Black-crowned Night-Herons to disperse all over the Louisville area. Although small numbers were seen feeding along the shores of Lake Barkley, Trigg/Lyon counties, the Lake Barkley rookery was abandoned when visited on July 27. It was assumed the rookery had relocated elsewhere on the lake (BPB) since Black-crown's continued to be numerous on the lake. An adult Black-crowned Night-Heron was also observed at McElroy Lake on June 29 (BPB). Three nests of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were found in a new location in the Louisville area, Jefferson County on June 15: one nest had five young, another had two young and the third nest had adults nearby, but the nest contents could not be seen because of the heavy foliage (KC). Also, adults and immatures were seen during late July in southern Jefferson County near the Outer Loop Landfill (T. Love, M. Stinson) and to the NE off Fern Valley Road (DP *vide* BPB), and one noted at the Falls of the Ohio on July 28 (LR). There was no report of the small colony of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Lexington. The surprise of the summer was the finding of a *Roseate Spoonbill* at Honker Lake in LBL on July 29 by Jeff Flam. This is, of course, the first record for Kentucky. The bird apparently only stayed for a short time as it could not be found on July 30, but was observed again in the general area by a couple from Florida on August 18 (W. Brines). See photograph on cover page.

Waterfowl — Canada Geese were noted with young at East Bend and at Union, Boone County during the period (LMc) and a pair raised young this summer at McElroy Lake (BPB). Wood Ducks had a good year. Adult birds with young were found at Mammoth Cave National Park (MS), Petersburg and East Bend in Boone County (LMc), near Wellsburg, Bracken County (LMc), Big Pond Sanctuary (KC), McElroy and Chaney Lakes (BPB), numerous small young at Reelfoot NWR (CP), and a brood at Marsh Creek, McCreary County — an uncommon Cumberland Plateau nesting record (BPB). American Black Ducks summered at McElroy Lake (BPB). A Mallard nest with five eggs was found at the edge of a private lake in Ten Broeck, Jefferson County on June 9, but was abandoned later with seven eggs (S, FS). Numerous broods were observed at McElroy Lake and a few at Chaney Lake (BPB). An adult male Green-winged Teal lingered at a slough near Harrodsburg, Mercer County and was still present on June 8 (WK *vide* FL). Ten to 12 broods of young Blue-winged

Teal were raised at McElroy Lake during the period and although no young were found on Chaney Lake, some adults remained there throughout the summer (BPB). The Blue-winged Teal was also found nesting in two new counties: Simpson and Trigg (BPB). A pair of Northern Shovelers lingered at McElroy Lake until June 13, and four birds showed up at the transient lakes on the early date of July 22 (BPB). Nonbreeding waterfowl provided some unusual records. Noteworthy summering reports at McElroy Lake included at least three Gadwall (a pair and a lone drake) and two male American Wigeons through early July (BPB), a Ring-necked Duck (drake — perhaps injured) throughout June and July (BPB), three Lesser Scaups (a pair and a lone drake) throughout June and July (BPB), and five Lesser Scaup at Towhead Island along the Ohio River at Louisville in mid-July (Kerry Prather), but only one observed there on July 30 (BPB), and a female Bufflehead, apparently with an injured wing, at McElroy Lake throughout June and July (BPB). A single Hooded Merganser ("thought to be a first-year male") was seen at McElroy Lake throughout June and July (BPB). Two Ruddy Ducks lingered at McElroy Lake through June 6 (BPB).

Hawks — Two downy young Black Vultures were found in an abandoned house about three miles WNW of Epleys in northern Todd County on June 7 (BPB). Noteworthy sightings of the Black Vulture included two birds over White Rocks in CGNHP, Harlan County on June 17 (BPB), single birds on two occasions in southeastern McCreary County near Wolf Knob (BPB, Lee Andrews), two birds near Wellsburg, Bracken County on June 8, and one near Fiskburg, Kenton County on June 10, (LMc). A Turkey Vulture nest with two downy young was found on June 7 along a cliffline, 0.9 mile SW of Mt. Vernon Church and approximately three miles NNW of Sharon Grove in northern Todd County (BPB). Eleven Turkey Vultures were seen in the vicinity of Bondurant, Fulton County on July 7 and seven in Calloway County on June 24 (CP). Of the three Osprey nests which were built in the LBL area and on Lake Barkley, one was not used, one near Empire Farm fledged two birds (CP) and one was still being attended by adults in late July (Ed. Ray *vide* BPB). A single Osprey was noted soaring over Rough River near Harrell Bend on June 9 (BPB). Six Mississippi Kites were reported in southern Fulton County on June 17 (SK, MS); and two were seen along Obion Creek, Hickman County on June 19. The latter two may have been a nesting pair since "both perched near us and seemed to be carrying food" (CP). An adult Bald Eagle was reported west of Lake Pewee, Hopkins County on July 13 (G. James *vide* JH). The Northern Harrier nest found on the Peabody Coal Company's Sinclair Surface Mine in eastern Muhlenberg County on May 26 reported in the Spring Season Report 1989 (*Ky. War.*, 65:65, 1989) was checked on June 8 and found abandoned (BPB). Also, the nest of five downy young located on Peabody's Coal Company Ken Surface Mine in western Ohio County on May 26 previously reported (same references as above) was not visited until July 16, but no evidence of the nest or young were found (BPB). Other harriers reported included a male east of Nelson in eastern Muhlenberg County on May 26 (AB, BPB); another in northern Todd County on June 7; a pair in eastern McLean County on June 15 and in northern Ohio County during the period — no date given — (BPB). It was interesting to note that four to six Northern Harriers were seen going to roost on the Homestead Mine in southern Ohio County on July 10 and again on July 24 (KC, HCL). An adult Sharp-shinned Hawk feeding young was reported from 1.25 miles east of Skyline, Letcher County on July 22 (AB), while adult singles were observed 1.25 miles south of Chad, Harlan County on June 21 (AB), south of Winifred, Johnson County, July 17 (AB), north of Dunlap, Pike County on July 27 (AB), and in eastern

McCreary County, approximately 1.5 miles NNW of Hollyhill on July 7 (BPB) and from Wolf Knob, in southeastern McCreary County on June 21 (Lee Andrews *fide* BPB). Cooper's Hawks apparently had a good year and were widespread during this period. A nest with at least three young was found in a pine plantation about 1.5 miles SW of Pottertown, Calloway County on June 25 (BPB); two fledglings begging for food near Rural, Pike County on July 31 (AB); a fledgling 3 miles west of Helton, Leslie County on July 24 (AB); two young at BPS during July (KC); and an immature noted 2.5 miles west of Mare Creek (Stanville) on July 14 (AB). There were numerous sightings of adult Cooper's Hawks made in the following counties: Edmonson/Grayson County line, Warren, Butler, Metcalfe, Green, Ohio, Taylor, Boone, Grayson, and Johnson. Also, three fledglings (*Accipiter* spp. probably Cooper's) just out of the nest, were seen just NW of Pigeon, Floyd County on July 14 (AB). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported only from near Carrollton, Carroll County on June 24 (LMc). A nest of Broad-winged Hawks containing young birds was found along Little South Fork Cumberland River near Green Ford Church in Wayne County on July 6 (BPB). Single Broad-wings sighted in the following counties: Boone (two locations), Carroll (LMc), Pulaski (JEl), and Fulton (CP) during June and July were probably breeding birds. Active nests of Red-tailed Hawks were found in two locations in Boone County during the spring (LMc). The species was seen regularly in southern Ohio County (KC, HLC); two at the transient lakes on July 27 (KC *et al.*); and frequently in the Ten Broeck area in east Louisville (S, FS). American Kestrels remain fairly common; adults were observed feeding young at Mallard Creek Crossing, Louisville on June 2 (KC); at least 13 on the Homestead Mine area, with some feeding young on July 17 (KC, A. Wilson).

Grouse through Coots — Three male Ruffed Grouse were still heard drumming in McCreary County on July 7 (BPB). Two of the *Common Moorhens* that were found on the cattail marsh on the Peabody Homestead Surface Mine in southern Ohio County during May apparently remained to nest as four half-grown downy young were seen there on July 16 (BPB, DP, D. Ebel). A Wild Turkey was seen on Cumberland Mountain near Hensley Settlement in CGNHP, Bell County on June 17 (BPB, R. Cassell). At least five non-breeding American Coots summered at McElroy Lake and two birds summered on the cattail marsh on the Homestead Surface Mine, southern Ohio County (BPB).

Shorebirds — As usual, some late spring migrants lingered well into June. Small numbers of fall migrants began appearing by late June and early July, particularly at the transient lakes. There were no large concentration of shorebirds reported this season with the exception of Killdeer at Louisville and McElroy Lake. Habitat was limited. The water levels in western Kentucky were too high for good habitat, and the Falls of the Ohio was inundated for much of the period, but by mid-July some of the rock ledge was exposed. Chaney Lake was just right for shorebirds by the end of July while McElroy was still a little too high. A Lesser Golden-Plover was observed on the shore of McElroy Lake on June 13 and was unusually late in its northward movement (BPB). A Semipalmated Plover lingered at McElroy Lake until June 6 while the first fall migrant appeared at nearby Chaney Lake on July 22 (BPB). One hundred and four Killdeer were seen at Wave Rock, Louisville on July 18 (LR) and 100+ observed around McElroy Lake, where large numbers nested (BPB). Three Greater Yellowlegs had reached McElroy Lake by July 4 (BPB, AB) and 12 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen there as early as June 29, with a larger

number of birds on smaller bodies of water nearby on July 16 (BPB). A Lesser Yellowlegs remained at McElroy Lake throughout the summer; its wing drooped slightly but it could fly well (BPB). A single Solitary Sandpiper returned to McElroy Lake on July 4 and numbers increased in the area by July 16 (BPB). An adult Willet at Duck Island WMA on Lake Barkley, Trigg County on July 27 was the only one reported (BPB *et al.*). Three Spotted Sandpipers summered at McElroy Lake and although a pair was seen copulating on June 6 and two males observed performing courtship flights, no nest or young were located (BPB). Up to four were present at the Falls of the Ohio by July 30. Two Upland Sandpipers (one a bird of the year) were noted at Chaney Lake on July 28 and four Sanderlings were present at the Falls of the Ohio on July 23 (BPB). Spring migrant Semipalmated Sandpipers (5 birds) lingered at McElroy Lake until June 6. Fall migrants (approximately 10 birds) arrived at Chaney Lake on July 22 (BPB). A single "peep" was noted at McElroy Lake on June 19 and appeared to be a Least, but identification was unconfirmed. Fall migrant Least Sandpipers returned to Chaney Lake as early as July 16 (BPB). White-rumped Sandpipers lingered at McElroy Lake until June 13 when 15 were still observed there (BPB). Small numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers arrived in southern Warren County, a couple miles north of the transient lakes on July 16 (BPB, D. Ebel, D. Parker), and at SWMA, Henderson County on July 23 (LR). Six Stilt Sandpipers were seen at the transient lakes on July 23 (JEl). Single Short-billed Dowitchers appeared at McElroy Lake throughout July with the earliest there on July 4 (BPB); five were seen but not heard at McElroy on July 22 (BBC) and a pair was seen and heard calling at Duck Island WMA on July 27 (BPB). A single Common Snipe was carefully studied at McElroy Lake on June 19 and is our first June record for Kentucky (BPB). A Red-necked Phalarope was observed on McElroy Lake on July 4 (BPB, AB).

Gulls through Terns — Two Laughing Gulls were reported: one second-year bird below McAlpine Dam on July 7 (LR) and an adult on Lake Barkley above the dam on July 27 (BPB). A few Ring-billed Gulls were scattered about on Lake Barkley above the dam on July 27 and two were observed at Towhead Island on the Ohio River at Louisville on July 30 (BPB and with D. Ebel on the latter date). A second-year Herring Gull was noted at the Falls of the Ohio on July 23 (BPB). The only Forster's Tern reported was an adult at Mitchell Lake, BWMA on July 28 (BPB). Least Terns had difficulty with nesting since the Mississippi River rose above normal levels in late June. Sandbars were inundated and John Smith of the Missouri Department of Conservation reported that more than 300 of over 500 documented nests were lost (*vide* BPB). On July 28 at least three adults and three juvenile Least Terns were seen on a slough next to the Ohio River above Cairo, Illinois, and 15 birds including at least 5 juveniles were noted below Smithland Dam, and six adult birds were at Mitchell Lake, BWMA (BPB).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — No nests of the Black-billed Cuckoo were found, but interesting records were reported: one bird heard calling on a reclaimed strip mine in eastern McLean County, 1.25 miles ENE of Island on June 15, and another found in rural farmland approximately 2.0 miles NE of Beaver Dam in Ohio County on June 28 (BPB). Both of these sightings were in areas where the birds had not been previously recorded in summer. Nest building of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed at Green River, near Rochester Dam, in southern Ohio County (BE, TE); a young fledgling was seen at BPS on July 13 (KC, HLC). A Great Horned Owl nest with two young was found near Burlington, Boone County in

late March (T. Stephens *fide* LMc). The *Short-eared Owl* nest found on May 25 as listed in the Spring Season Report, 1989 (*Ky. War.*, 65:69, 1989) was found with six downy young on the Peabody Coal Company's Sinclair Surface Mine in eastern Muhlenberg County, near Paradise (AB, BPB). The nest was checked on June 8 and found empty, however, a "defensive owl was flying in the vicinity" (BPB). In southern Ohio County on the Homestead Mine both Dr. and Mrs. Clay and Palmer-Ball reported seeing small groups of three to five young Short-eared Owls with an adult in mid-June and mid-July and were believed to be family groups. Also, late in the evening on July 16 a Short-eared Owl was seen harrassing a female Red-tailed Hawk that was sitting on a telephone pole (KC) on the Homestead Mine. Chuck-will's-widows were heard calling during June at BPS (KC) and heard along Little South Fork Cumberland River near Erwin, Wayne County on July 19 (BPB). A nest of Whip-poor-wills containing one egg was found in late May in Grant County. The nest held two eggs on June 3 and one egg had hatched by mid-June (Joe and Kathy Caminiti *fide* LMc); four birds were heard at BPS during June (KC). A few observers wondered where the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were this season since their feeders were not visited. However, two pairs were seen coming to a feeder at Science Hill, Pulaski County (JEL); six birds at BPS (KC), a nest under construction near Carrollton, Carroll County on June 24 (LMc), several birds fed at feeders at the Nature Center in LBL, and up to 30 were noted at feeders in a yard in Cadiz, Trigg County (WB). Red-headed Woodpeckers received mixed reports from "making a comeback" in central Kentucky to "seemed scarce" in northern Kentucky. Active nests of the Red-cockaded were located at least two sites in southern Daniel Boone National Forest (Steve Phillips *fide* BPB).

Flycatchers through Horned Larks — A fair number of Willow Flycatchers were reported during the period. They were observed at the Cincinnati Airport on June 5 and throughout June and July at Petersburg, Boone County (LMc) where at least three singing males were heard and adults were feeding young out of the nest on July 20 (LMc). A territorial male and nest under construction were located on a reclaimed strip mine in eastern McLean County, 1.25 miles ENE of Island on June 15 for a new county nesting record (BPB); also "a singing, apparently territorial male" on June 27 along Caney Creek, near Steff, Grayson County (BPB); and two singing birds at Fourmile, Bell County on June 14, probably a new location (AB, A. Mullen). Two singing Least Flycatchers and one silent bird was observed between them at Chenoa (1400 feet elevation) in Bell County on June 7, 9, and 18 (AB); and two singing birds at Black Mountain lookout tower, Harlan County on June 21, 23 and 25 (AB). An active nest of Eastern Phoebe was observed on a shed in Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on April 22 (BM, BBC); also early nesting observed in the Glasgow area (RS). Other active nests were found in the following counties: Boone, Carroll, Kenton and Bracken (LMc). Territorial Horned Larks were present in Grant County during June (LMc); many adult birds were seen carrying food to young in several locations in southern Ohio County on the Homestead Mine during June (KC, HLC, S, FS).

Martins through Nuthatches — Little information was received on the Purple Martin. The colony in Seneca Park, Louisville was reduced to two pairs (S, FS); a few present at Rough River, Grayson County (KC); several pairs nested in a new box which was erected south of Versailles, Woodford County (SH); and the 50+ with several young at Science Hill, Pulaski County on July 17 were probably getting ready to migrate south (JEL). Tree Swallows continued their expansion through the state with

nests in dead trees over the lakes at the Army Depot in Richmond, Madison County and in two bluebird boxes in the uplands (WD); West Hickman Sewage Treatment Plant in Jessamine County for a new breeding county record (WD); and near Crittenden, Grant County (K. Caminiti *vide* LMc). Other breeding observations included adult birds entering cavities in trees and fledglings nearby, on a strip mine north of Centertown, western Ohio County on June 28 (BPB); in a nest box near Union, Boone County (LMc); and adult birds observed at Cimarron Marsh, Hopkins County on June 1 (JH). Bank Swallows were found in gravel pits again in Petersburg and Bellevue while a third colony was found in another gravel pit near Taylorsport also in Boone County (LMc). The two Bank Swallow colonies in Carroll County were not visited this summer (S). New breeding colonies of the Cliff Swallow were found and established new county records in Bracken County at Mehdahl Dam (10 nests) and at Rock Springs (60 nests — LMc), and in Ohio County on Caney Creek at US 62, about 1.5 miles NE of Horse Branch (BPB). Also, new nesting colonies were located as follows: Rough River Reservoir at KY 259, Grayson/Breckinridge County line (about 30+ nests), Caney Creek at US 62, about 2.5 miles E of Steff, and Caney Creek at Goffs-Neafus Road, both with 25+ nests on June 27 (BPB). Other nesting colonies were noted at Markland Dam in Gallatin County and Wolper Creek in Boone County (LMc). The Gunpowder Creek colony in Boone County was not used this year for the first time in five years (LMc). An apparent migrant flock of 50+ Cliff Swallows was observed at East Bend, Boone County on July 29 (LMc). An active nest of American Crows was observed at Camp Ernest, near Burlington, Boone County on April 24 (LMc). Two Common Ravens were heard calling from a cliffline on the north side of Cumberland Mountain in CGNHP, Bell County on June 17 (BPB, R. Cassell); and the two birds noted near Larkslane and one at Vest, Knott County on July 12 were noteworthy (AB). An adult White-breasted Nuthatch was noted feeding young in the nest at Burlington on May 15 (LMc).

Wrens through Shrikes — Successful nesting of the Carolina Wren was noted at BPS (KC), Glasgow in Barren County (RS), two locations in east Louisville: one in a mail box on Redleaf Drive (DN), and one on a rafter in a carport, Spokane Way (FS, S). Bewick's Wrens continued to be scarce with only two birds reported: one singing bird appeared territorial in rural Warren County, about 1.5 miles NE of Girkin on June 2 (BPB) and one near Fiskburg in Kenton County on June 10 (LMc). A Sedge Wren was heard singing in rural Warren County just SE of McElroy Lake on July 22 (BPB, BBC). Improved numbers of Eastern Bluebirds were evident in most areas. The nest box project at Prospect, Jefferson County was quite successful (JK). Increases of the Eastern Bluebird population were also noted at the University of Kentucky Agriculture Farm, Fayette County and at the Army Depot at Richmond (WD). Several Veeries were heard singing along upper Cumberland Mountain along the Ridge Trail from Hensley Settlement to White Rocks, Bell/Harlan County line in CGNHP on June 17 (BPB, R. Cassell). The Wood Thrush was scarce at BPS and at Louisville (KC and S, respectively); only one nest reported — an incubating bird near Hebron, Boone County on June 7 (LMc). The Brown Thrasher and Gray Catbird were again in low numbers especially in the Louisville area. Cedar Waxwings were not as widespread this summer; at least 25 present at BPS during June, but left after the mulberries were gone (KC). An active nest was located north of Gilstrap, Butler County on June 29 (BPB). Other summer sightings of pairs were made in the following counties: Breckinridge, Edmonson (2 locales), Logan, Metcalfe, Ohio (2 locales), Todd (2 locales), and War-

ren (2 locales — BPB). Increased sightings of Loggerhead Shrikes were encouraging. They were noted in Bracken (LMc), Grant (LMc), Grayson (KC), Pulaski (JEL), and Warren counties (KC). Nests and/or recently fledged groups of young were located while doing Breeding Bird Atlas surveys in the following counties (# of sites): Breckinridge (1), Butler (1), Christian (1), Edmonson (1), Logan (1), McLean (1), Metcalfe (1), Muhlenberg (3), Ohio (2), Simpson (5), Todd (3), and Warren (2 — BPB). Eight Loggerhead Shrikes were also seen in one hour while driving in Fulton County on July 17 (SK, MS).

Vireos through Warblers — The Bell's Vireo nest previously reported (Ky. War., 65:71, 1989) was found on the Peabody Coal Company Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County and contained eggs in late May, and nearly-fledged young on June 14 (BPB); two to three territorial males were still in full song there on July 16. The Muhlenberg County nest site on Peabody's Martwick Surface Mine was not revisited (BPB). Five male Solitary Vireos were noted singing on June 15 along a four mile stretch of road #221 starting west of the town of Pine Mountain, Harlan County where the elevation is 1700-2500 feet (AB); a singing male along Railroad Fork, about four miles NNE of Whitley City, McCreary County on July 17 and scattered singing males along the Ridge Trail in CGNHP, Bell/Harlan County line on June 17 (BPB, R. Cassell). Two or three pairs of Solitary Vireos with young were seen along one mile stretch of Road #1780, three miles west and slightly south of Helton, Leslie County (elevation 1500 feet) on July 24 (AB). A pair of Golden-winged Warblers noted on Black Mountain (elevation 3000+ feet), 2.5 miles SW of Cumberland, Harlan County on June 21, 23 and 25 (AB). Summering Northern Parulas were observed at three locations in Boone County and one location each in Carroll and Kenton counties (LMc). An adult Chestnut-sided Warbler was observed feeding a young bird, 1.25 miles east of Sizeroock, Leslie County (elevation 1400 feet) on July 7 (AB); and singing birds were heard in all appropriate habitats along the crest of Cumberland Mountain in CGNHP, Bell/Harlan counties on June 17 (BPB, R. Cassell). Black-throated Blue Warblers were heard at scattered points along the Ridge Trail in CGNHP from Hensley Settlement, Bell County to White Rocks, Harlan County on June 17 (BPB, R. Cassell). Pine Warblers were again recorded on several occasions during June in pines at Madisonville, Hopkins County (JH), where they probably are nesting birds. Other summer sightings from areas where records are few included a singing male, south of Gilstrap on June 29, a male carrying food at Lake Blythe, north of Hopkinsville, Christian County on June 22, and an adult feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird, about 2 miles N of Pleasant Hill, Butler County on June 14 (BPB). Cerulean Warblers were observed in family groups (adults and fledglings) along Rock Creek, McCreary County, July 6 (BPB). Worm-eating Warblers were common during the period at Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve, while a pair was also present north of Carrollton, Carroll County during June (LMc); and fledged young were near Sharon Grove, Todd County on June 7 (BPB). Alan Barron located a good number of Swainson's Warblers (mostly singing males) in eastern Kentucky as follows: one near Sampson, Harlan County on June 20, a pair, 2 miles south of Slemo, Perry County July 6, one at 1.25 miles east of Sizemore, Leslie County on July 7, one at Day, Letcher County July 15, a pair, and another male singing at some distance behind them, 2 miles west of Flat Gap, Virginia along Hwy. 932, July 22, one, one-half mile northeast of Skyline, Letcher County July 22, and one, one-half mile southeast of Skyline, Letcher County, July 22. Another was present at Sugar Run Picnic Area in CGNHP, Bell County on June 17 (BPB, AB, AM), and still there on June 25 (AB). An adult

Ovenbird was observed carrying food in southern Butler County on June 1 (BPB), and an adult was seen feeding a fledgling on June 6 at the Boone County Cliffs (LMc). Singing Canada Warblers were heard at several points along the Ridge Trail on CGNHP from the upper portion of Shillalah Creek near Hensley Settlement to White Rocks on June 17 (BPB, R. Cassell).

Tanagers through Dickcissels — A Summer Tanager nest with young was found on June 16 at General Butler State Park, Carroll County (LMc). Scarlet Tanagers were widespread during the period in northern Kentucky (LMc); a female noted feeding two young Brown-headed Cowbirds out of the nest in rural Carroll County on June 24 (LMc); and two birds were near Brazzle Bridge in Madisonville on June 9 (JH). There were three reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on June 17 in CGNHP: two singing males on Cumberland Mountain, one along upper Shillalah Creek, and one along the Ridge Trail (BPB, R. Cassell). Blue Grosbeaks were widespread and they continued their expansion in the state with new county breeding records established. Three young fledged from a nest near Munfordville, Hart County (SK); and an adult was observed carrying food to young on the Homestead Mine in Ohio County on July 16 and 23 (KC). Two male Blue Grosbeaks and a female were in a yard at Science Hill, Pulaski County from June 17 throughout July (JEl) while singing was noted in a yard in Danville, Boyle County all during July (FL). Other summer sightings included two birds along the road at SWMA on July 23 (LR), recorded at five locations in Hopkins County (JH), several locations in Barren County (RS), increased numbers noted on the BBS in Casey County (FL), and 12 birds were heard on July 21 in the following counties: Logan, Todd and Warren (BM, MM). A female Dickcissel was observed building a nest in eastern McLean County on June 15 (BPB); and adults carrying food to young were found on the Homestead Mine on June 1 (S, FS) numerous there during June and July (KC). Dickcissels were also heard at SWMA on July 23 (LR).

Sparrows through Finches — Bachman's Sparrows were not found this summer at the traditional Blood River site (J. T. Erwin *vide* CP). However, a singing male was seen and heard in rural Calloway County, about 1.5 miles SW of Pottertown, some 5 miles from the Blood River site where it was formerly observed for the past number of years (J. T. Erwin, BPB). The Savannah Sparrow observed near Danville on July 15 was the only one reported (FL). Grasshopper Sparrows were noted during June in Bracken, Grant and Pendleton counties (LMc); and a small colony on a reclaimed strip mine in southwestern Whitley County on July 7 (BPB), and unusually common on the reclaimed strip mine land (Homestead Mine) during the period (KC, S), and three birds singing at reclaimed strip mines in SE Bell County, north of CGNHP (AB). A colony of Henslow's Sparrows was found in Pendleton County near Knoxville on June 3 (LMc), also a small colony in Grant County near Mason during June (Joe and Kathy Caminiti *vide* LMc), and a nesting colony on Peabody's Ken Surface Mine in western Ohio County during June and July; nesting evidence observed by food being carried in the bill of an adult on July 16 (BPB). Song Sparrows were recorded at six locations in Hopkins County in June and July, where it is not common in summer (JH). A few pairs of Bobolinks remained in a field near Danville through July 3 when the field was cut (FL). American Goldfinches were numerous at BPS during the summer with 25 or more present (KC). Several pairs of House Finches nested again in southwestern Jefferson County (WJ), and were present at feeders in eastern Jefferson County during the summer period (S, FS); and numbrs were increasing in the Madisonville area (JH).

Contributors — Alan Barron (AB), Wally Brines (WB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Herbert L. Clay, Jr. (HLC), Wayne Davis (WD), Brenda Eaden (BE), Tony Eaden (TE), Jackie Elmore (JEL), James W. Hancock (JH), Smith Hundley (SH), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Steve Kistler (SK), John Krull (JK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), Andrew Mullen (AM), Doxie Noonan (DN), B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), D. Parker (DP), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Mitchel Sturgeon (MS), Russell Starr (RS).

-- 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING

September 22-24, 1989

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 66th annual Fall Meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on September 22-24, 1989.

Jim Williams opened the Friday evening session with a welcome to members, guests and those attending for the first time. Virginia Kingsolver outlined the field trips for Saturday morning and introduced the evening speakers. Steve Phillips updated the current status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in the Cumberland Falls area. Paul Kalisz spoke on the characteristics of forest utilized by the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Kentucky. Clell Peterson proposed a bird photography salon by members at future K.O.S. meetings. Brad Andres discussed the use of tape playbacks in searching for breeding rails. Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. concluded the program with a review of the present status and future plans for the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas project. Members were invited to a social hour following the program at the Kingsolver's cabin.

Rain greeted birders on Saturday morning field trips. Steve Kickert led one group to a Red-cockaded Woodpecker roost site, Jackie Elmore led a trip to the Natural Arch area and Bert Powell led a group around the lodge area.

The Board of Directors met in the lodge at 4:00 p.m.

The Saturday evening program was held in the lodge meeting room beginning at 7:30 p.m. Fred Busroe led in compiling the day's bird list, which totalled 55 species. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year: President - Virginia Kingsolver, Vice-President - Lee McNeely, Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer - Kathryn Mudd, Recording Secretary - Donnie Spencer, and new Councillors - Clell Peterson and Bert Powell. All were approved as presented. Thanks were extended to Jim Williams and John Krull for their recent service as officers. Sunday morning trips were announced, followed by a tape of the calls of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Dr. Wendell Kingsolver presented the evening program, an entertaining look at "New World Migration, a Bird's Eye View."

Cool, sunny weather was present on Sunday, with several more birders getting good views of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. No additional species were reported by participants on Sunday field trips. Total registrations for the Fall Meeting were 54.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING AT CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes
BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely
CALVERT CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lecky
CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver
CRITTENDEN: Joe and Kathy Caminiti
ELIZABETHTOWN: Joan Noel
FRANKFORT: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones
HODGENVILLE: Susan Cruse
LEXINGTON: Susan Boeltcher, Jim Williams, Charles Elliott
LOUISVILLE: Edwin Ahrens, Richard Cassell, Kathryn Clay, John Krull, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Don Parker, Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Stamm
MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Powell
MOREHEAD: Mr. Fred Busroe
MUNFORDVILLE: Cap Middleton
MURRAY: Dr. Clell Peterson
OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Lydia Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Wilson, William Perkins
PADUCAH: Bernice Caddell
SOMERSET: Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Elmore, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hines, Gary Sherman
STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson
CLARKSVILLE, IND: Lene Rauth
DYERSBURG, TN: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett
COLUMBUS, OH: Mr. and Mrs. Brad Andres, Wendell Haag
PENNEY FARM, FLA: Mr. and Mrs. John Cheeks
EUGENE, OR: Rick Ahrens

BIRDS RECORDED ON FIELD TRIPS AT THE FALL MEETING AT CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

September 22-24, 1989

Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow and American Goldfinch. The species total for the weekend was 55. It was raining in the morning on Saturday during the field trips, but the skies began to clear in the afternoon and temperatures began to drop with the approach of a cold front.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FISCAL YEAR 1988-1989

GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance as of September 28, 1988 \$3,164.71

Receipts

| | | |
|---|------------|----------------|
| Membership Dues | \$2,294.00 | |
| Interest Income: | | |
| Endowment Fund | 400.26 | |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 84.15 | |
| Meetings | 215.00 | |
| Gifts (Owensboro Nature Club) | 20.00 | |
| Sale of Patches, etc. | 78.65 | |
| Sale of Annotated Checklists | 2,023.85 | |
| Transfer from G. Wilson Fund — Postage | 48.91 | |
| Transfer from G. Wilson Fund — Taxes | 67.09 | |
| Adjustment — Overcredit from G. Wilson Fund | 5.00 | 5,236.91 |
| | | <hr/> 8,401.62 |

Disbursements

| | | |
|--|----------|------------------|
| Printing Cost (Warbler — 3 Issues) | 2,244.49 | |
| Envelopes | 148.20 | |
| Postage | 287.50 | |
| Meetings | 128.54 | |
| Nature Conservancy Dues | 15.00 | |
| Transfer of Interest to G. Wilson Fund | 84.15 | |
| Transfer of Checklist Sales to G. Wilson Fund | 2,028.85 | |
| KY State Tax Filing Fee | 10.00 | |
| KY State Sales Tax | 67.09 | |
| Postage for Mailing Checklists | 48.91 | |
| Transfer of Life Membership to Endowment Fund (2) | 150.00 | 5,212.73 |
| | | <hr/> \$3,188.89 |

Bank Balance as of September 19, 1989 \$3,188.89

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account, September 29, 1988 \$2,202.17

Certificates of Deposit:

| | |
|--|----------|
| 2 @ \$1,000 each — Greater Financial Federal | 2,000.00 |
| 1 @ \$1,500 — Future Federal | 1,500.00 |
| 1 @ \$1,000 — Future Federal | 1,000.00 |

TOTAL \$6,702.17

Receipts:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Interest on Certificates of Deposit | \$ 400.26 | |
| Interest on Savings Account | 93.81 | |
| Life Memberships (2) | 150.00 | 644.07 |
| | | <hr/> \$7,346.24 |

Disbursements:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Transfer of Interest to General Fund | 400.26 |
| Balance in Fund, September 28, 1989 | <u>\$6,945.98</u> |
| Certificates of Deposit (4) | \$4,500.00 |
| Balance in Savings Account | <u>2,445.98</u> |
| TOTAL | <u><u>\$6,945.98</u></u> |

GORDON WILSON FUND

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Balance in Savings Account, September 29, 1988 | \$1,188.95 |
| Certificates of Deposit: 2 @ \$1,000 each | <u>2,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>\$3,188.95</u> |

Receipts:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Interest on Certificates of Deposit | \$ 84.15 | |
| Interest on Savings Account | 56.87 | |
| Sale of Annotated Checklists | <u>2,028.85</u> | <u>2,169.87</u> |
| | | 5,358.82 |

Disbursements:

| | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|
| Transfer of Postage to General Fund | 48.91 | |
| Transfer of Taxes to General Fund | 67.09 | |
| Adjustment of Overcredit | <u>5.00</u> | <u>121.00</u> |
| Balance in Fund, September 28, 1989 | | <u>\$5,237.82</u> |
| Balance in Savings Account, September 28, 1989 | | \$3,237.82 |
| Certificates of Deposit (2) | | <u>2,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL | | <u><u>\$5,237.82</u></u> |

BALANCE SHEET
As of September 28, 1989

Assets:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Balance in General Fund | \$ 3,188.89 |
| Balance in Endowment Fund | 6,945.98 |
| Balance in Gordon Wilson Fund | <u>5,237.82</u> |
| TOTAL (Net Worth) | <u><u>\$15,372.69</u></u> |

FIELD NOTE

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD OF THE ROSEATE SPOONBILL

On 29 July 1989 Jean Steinhauser and I were canoeing on Honker Lake located in Land Between the Lakes, Lyon County, Kentucky. The weather was hot and humid. Around 10:30 a.m. two Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) caught my attention as they flew from a dead snag approximately 30 yards from us. In this same tree I saw what appeared to be a Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). When it turned its head so that the bill was easily in view, the shape could be seen as long, flattened on the top and bottom and with a round tip. From this observation, I knew we were looking at a Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*).

I took several photographs of the perched spoonbill with a 29-200 mm zoom lens which was set on 200mm. As it flew from its perch, its pink underwings were obvious. The upper surface of the wings, body, neck and head appeared white.

We followed the bird to another part of the lake where it landed on the bank. It fed in a shallow pool until around 12:00 p.m. At this time it flew out of Honker Lake toward Lake Barkley. I took several more photographs while it was feeding and in flight.

When we got back to the truck, I consulted the *National Geographic Field Guide* to confirm the sighting and check its range. Since it was well out of its normal range, we reported the sighting to Wally Brines at Woodlands Nature Center.

JEFF FLAM, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42211-9001.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. MEMBER BECOMES A.O.U.'s PRESIDENT

Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., who is President-Elect of the American Ornithologists' Union, will take office as president at the A.O.U.'s 108th Stated Meeting at Los Angeles, California in June 1990. K.O.S. salutes Dr. Monroe for this outstanding recognition. At the present time Dr. Charles G. Sibley, Tiburon, California and Dr. Monroe are completing a book on *The Classification and Distribution of Recent Birds of the World*.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is sponsoring Project FeederWatch. This project is designed to monitor bird distribution across the United States through observations made on a regular basis at backyard feeders. You do not have to be an expert bird watcher to participate. If you are interested in more information, write: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNTS

Those members who have participated in the mid-winter bird counts previously should already have received count forms for this year's count. The counts should be conducted between December 16 and January 3. If you are interested in conducting a count and would like additional information, please contact the editor.

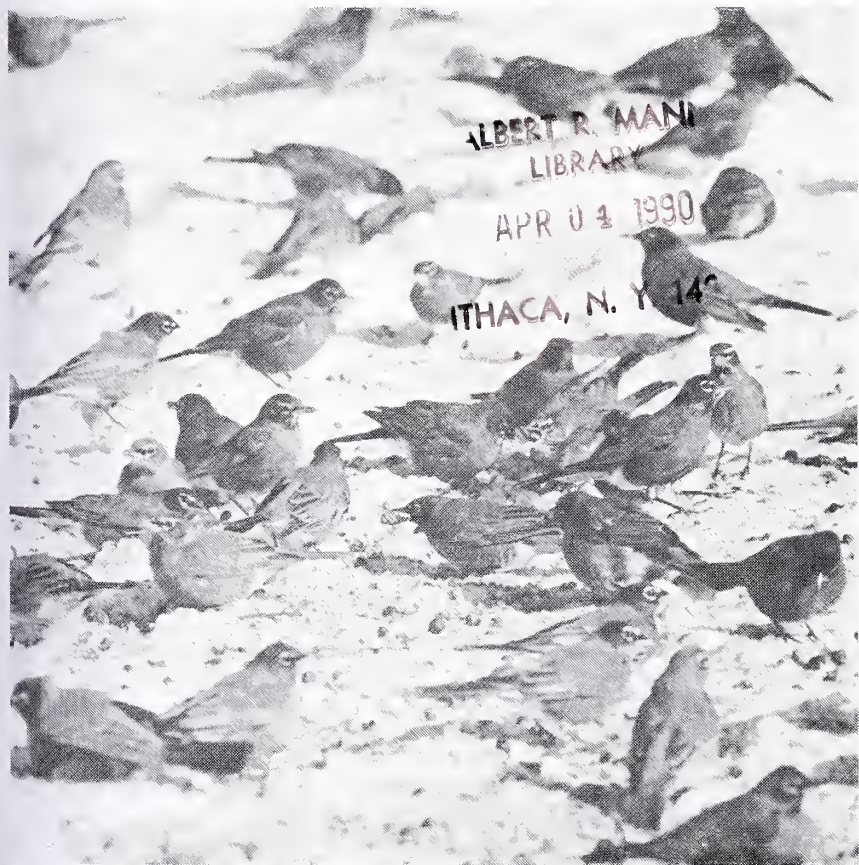
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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson

| | |
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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family, \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Editor | B. R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ. Bowling Green 42101 |
| Assistant Editor | Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green |

Editorial Advisory Board

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm | Burt L. Monroe, Jr. |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|

THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for the photograph of the flock of American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) taken in Lexington.

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1989

ANNE L. STAMM

The fall of 1989 in Kentucky was characterized by above normal temperature and the warm weather continued well into October. The temperature at Paducah on October 13 reached 89 degrees, a new record, and 87 at Louisville. Also, on November 27 Louisville enjoyed a high of 71 degrees and several cities in western Kentucky recorded temperatures in the mid-70's. Rainfall was below normal, except in October.

The Waterfowl movement was poor, perhaps because of the mild weather in late October. Ducks and geese did not peak until mid-December. No large hawk flights were detected. The passerines started to move south in late August and good numbers appeared in early September and again in late September. There were excellent flights of Sandhill Cranes, particularly in early and late November. Shorebird migration was below average in most of the state, but excellent at the transient lakes, south of Bowling Green. A few species of birds arrived early, but many lingered beyond normal departure dates. A few rarities showed up and all in all it was a fairly interesting season.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; Duck Island WMA = Duck Island Wildlife Management Area, Trigg County on Lake Barkley; KyDFWR = Kentucky Department Fish and Wildlife Resources; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; LP = Lake Pewee; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County. The transient lakes are Chaney and McElroy, south of Bowling Green, Warren County. Crescent Hill Reservoir, Lentz's Pond and Mayfair basins are located in Louisville.

Loons through Bitterns — Common Loons were widespread, but in low numbers. The first observation was made of a single bird at Cave Run Lake, Rowan County on September 4 (FB) and two were observed at Lake Barkley above the dam on September 10 (JP). One to five birds were recorded from November 3-26 at the following locations: Campbellsville Reservoir, Taylor County (JEl), Mayfair basins (DN), Kentucky Lake above the dam (BPB, DP), Lake Pewee, Hopkins County (BPB, DP), McAlpine Dam at Louisville (LR), Ohio River at Louisville (BPB), Wysox Lake, Ohio County (KC, AW), and on a reclaimed surface mine lake in Muhlenberg County (BPB, DP). Highest concentrations were 16 birds at Green River Lake, Taylor County on November 26 (JEl) and 11 at Cave Run Lake on November 11 (FB). Summering Pied-billed Grebes, plus fall transients, at McElroy Lake were present through August until the lake dried up in mid-September, with a peak of 10-15 there on August 27-September 2 (BPB). Other Pied-billed counts included 23 at Lake Pewee on October 29 (LR), 35-50 November 17 (BPB, DP), and 20 still present November 30 (JH); 10 at Green River Lake, Taylor County on November 26 (JEl), and seven on Kentucky Lake above the dam November 21 (CP). One to three birds were also sighted from September 20 to November 21 at Camp Ernst, Boone County (LMc), Caneyville watershed lake, Grayson

County (JP), and at three locations in Ohio County (JP). No large movements of Horned Grebes were observed: highest counts were 10-15 birds at Lake Pewee and three flocks totaling 17 birds on the Ohio River at Louisville November 17 and 29, respectively (BPB). One to three birds were present at Green River Lake (JEL), Jonathan Creek, Marshall County (CP), Crescent Hill Reservoir (m. ob.) and six at Kentucky Lake above the dam (BPB, DP). Two Eared Grebes were present at McElroy Lake at the early date of August 27 (BPB), and another sighted at a more normal date — November 17 — at Lake Pewee (BPB, DP, photo). Double-crested Cormorants appeared in 15 locations and in fair numbers. A migrant flock of 38 birds was seen in a tree at Shippingport Island on October 20 (DP), they were preceded by a flock of 16 flying over the area on October 3 (LR); seven at Barren River Lake, Barren County October 14 (RS); six on Lake Barkley, near Boyd's Landing, and six on Lake Barkley, near the mouth of Taylor Bay on September 28 and 29, respectively (BPB, J. T. Erwin, CP); four at Smithland Dam, Livingston County (CP); and four flying over the Ohio River at Warsaw, Gallatin County (KCam, JCam). Single birds were present at seven locations: Cool Springs-Wysox Lake, Ohio County as early as August 6 (KC) and present periodically during September to mid-November (KC, BPB); McElroy Lake, August 27-September 8 (BPB); Green River Lake, September 24 (JEL); Green River in Mammoth Cave National Park August 29-30 (BPB, R. Cicerello); East Bend, Boone County, October 9 (LMc); Lake Pewee, November 17 (BPB, DP); MCFH, Rowan County on November 12 (FB). Two birds were present at Goose Pond, Ohio County, October 24 (JP) and three at Mayfair basins at Louisville on November 30 (DP).

A few American Bitterns were reported: one flushed at SWMA on September 17 (BPB, DE); one at a pond on the reclaimed Peabody Sinclair Surface Mine in eastern Muhlenberg County on October 15 (BPB); and one flushed from a pond on the "20th Century" portion of the reclaimed Peabody Ken Surface Mine in southern Ohio County on October 29 (BPB, DE). The seven Least Bitterns, which were flushed from the small, marshy pond on the Peabody Homestead Mine in southern Ohio County on August 3 were also reported in The Nesting Season, Summer 1989 (*Ky. War.*, 65:83, 1989 — BPB, AB).

Hérons — Great Blue Herons were widely scattered, but no large movements were observed: a total of 82 birds was counted along the shore of Lake Barkley from Canton Bridge to Linton, Trigg County on September 24 (LS *et al.*). Thirty-six birds were present at MCFH November 30 (FB), 25 at the Falls of the Ohio on November 17 (BPB), 13 were there as early as August 25 (LR); and 16 at Jonathan Creek on September 16 (MM), and approximately 12 birds along the Green River in MCNP on August 29-30 (BPB, R. Cicerello). The species was numerous throughout the period at East Bend, Aurora Ferry, and several other areas along the Ohio River in Boone County (LMc); singles appeared on various dates from August 8-November 21 at the Falls of the Ohio (S), Cimarron marsh, Hopkins County (JH), SWMA (JP), Goose Pond (JP), Richland Lake and Caneyville watershed lake in western Grayson County (JP). Also, two to four were recorded at Wysox Lake (KC) and at the transient lakes (BPB, KC). A new rookery was late in being discovered with 50+ nests in mid-November along Cypress Creek in Marshall County (J. Aldrich of the Nature Conservancy *vide* BPB), and another with three nests was

observed on the "20th Century" portion of the reclaimed Peabody Ken Mine in southern Ohio County on November 25. Birds were perched on two of the three nests (DP, BPB). This small rookery was discovered as early as 1987 by Tony Eaden, who had photographed the small rookery, but not reported it. The latter nesting colony represents not only a new county record, but established the eastern-most nesting site in the state.

A Great Egret nest containing three young immatures was found on August 19 in the Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery located on a small island in Lake Barkley, near the mouth of Taylor Bay (BPB, DE). At the present time, this is the second-known nesting area for the Great Egret in Kentucky. The highest concentration was 17 at Lake #9, Fulton County, August 3 (CP). Other sightings were: three to eight birds at Jonathan Creek (MM, CP); four at Honker Lake in LBL (BPB); eight in Carlisle and Ballard counties (CP); one to two at the Falls of the Ohio (LR, DP); singles at Chaney Lake (BPB), McElroy Lake (KC, AW), Crittenden, Grant County (KCam, JCam), and at Freeman Lake, Hardin County, one bird as late as November 1 (RH). A Snowy Egret on August 25 at the Falls of the Ohio was the only one reported (DP). Two adult and 25 immature Little Blue Herons were found August 19 roosting in the Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery, mentioned above: one immature at Louisville August 1 (LR); three immatures at SWMA on September 17 (BPB); and an adult and nine immatures along the shore of Lake Barkley to beyond Linton on September 24 (LS *et al.*). The only Cattle Egrets reported were the five in Ballard County on August 3 (CP). Green-backed Herons were scarce, except at MCFH where 55 were present on August 7, numbers tapered off to 45 in late August and dropped to 12 on September 10 (FB); and at least 30 were noted on August 19 going into the Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery, mentioned above under Great Egret. This rookery also served as a night-time heron roost (BPB, DE). An "unimpressive peak count of seven birds" was seen at Chaney Lake on August 13 (BPB); and no more than two birds in August to mid-September at McElroy Lake (BPB), Wysox Lake (KC, HLC), Falls of the Ohio (S, FS, DS), Lentz's Pond (S, FS), BPS, Grayson County (KC) and two as late as October 23 at Cimarron marsh (*fide* JH). The Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery on southern Lake Barkley, in which two nests of the Little Blue Heron and one of the Cattle Egret were found in 1981 (*Ky. War.*, 57:72, 1981), was abandoned in 1989. The apparent new location of the Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery was confirmed on August 19 when Palmer-Ball and Ebel visited a small island in Lake Barkley near the mouth of Taylor Bay, mentioned above, and found an active colony of some 100+ nests, many still containing young. "Attention was first called to this site by David Monroe with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers" who told Palmer-Ball of seeing a large number of birds on the island earlier in August. A peak count of 102 birds was seen on the rock ledge below McAlpine Dam on August 25 (LR); 10 at Lentz's Pond on September 16 (S, FS); two birds at the Kentucky Lake islands near Hamlin, Calloway County on August 5 (CP); two along the shore of Lake Barkley below Linton on September 24 (LS). Late departures were reported from Lentz's Pond (two birds) November 3 (LR) and an immature there November 12 (BBC).

Swans through Geese — An unidentified swan (*Cygnus sp.*) was noted at SWMA in late November (M. Morton, KyDFWR *fide* BPB). A flock of 18 Greater White-fronted Geese was present at the Cool Springs-Wysox

Lake, Ohio County, on October 15 (BPB, KC, HLC, photo by latter). A Snow Goose was observed with Canadas at Honker Lake, in LBL on September 29 (BPB); six of the blue morph were present at SWMA on October 21 (BBC), and 40 birds were there on November 18 (BPB, DP). Migration was at its height on December 19 when Snow Geese peaked at BWMA with 15,000 to 20,000 (CW). Migrant Canada Geese began arriving on September 3 when a flock of 100 was seen going into Cimarron marsh (JH); numbers increased in November with 2,000 present at SWMA on November 5 (JP); 250 at Goose Pond, Ohio County on November 12 (JP); 25 at Campbellsville Reservoir, November 26 (JEL); and 55 at Marydale Lake, Boone County on November 28 (JCam, KCam). The species peaked at BWMA on December 19 with 170,000, and according to Charles Wilkins, director of BWMA, this total is "more than ever" recorded there. Small flocks were also recorded in Jefferson, Grayson, Trigg and Warren counties (S, JP, LS, BPB).

Ducks — The duck migration was characterized by a good variety of species, however, numbers in many localities were low. Several Wood Ducks were seen on Honker Lake in LBL and at Duck Island WMA on Lake Barkley, Trigg County, both on September 29 (BPB); smaller numbers elsewhere. A single Green-winged Teal had arrived at McElroy Lake by August 27 where a few were seen up until mid-September when it dried up (BPB). Numbers increased by November 5 when 34 birds were noted at Aurora Ferry (LMc), 50 birds at Mayfair basins at Louisville on November 12 (JK) and a flock of 100 at SWMA on November 18 (BPB, DP). Three to 20 birds were reported at the following locations: Circleport Pond, Boone County (KCam), Jonathan Creek (CP), Lake Pewee (BPB, DP) and Wysox Lake (KC, BPB). American Black Ducks were scarce and numbers were fairly low. The duck population at BWMA peaked on December 19 with 19,000 to 20,000, with the majority of the birds being Mallards, according to Charles Wilkins. Other concentrations of Mallards included 500-1,000 at SWMA (BPB), 200+ at the transient lakes in Warren County (BPB), 107 at Lake Pewee (JH), 94 on Circleport Pond (KCam), and 85 at Big Ready Bottoms, Grayson County (JP). Two Northern Pintails arrived quite early at McElroy Lake on August 8 and tied our early state date (BPB); numbers were low. Blue-winged Teal reports were few and numbers were low in most areas. Nesting birds were still present throughout August at the transient lakes, and when the southward movement arrived some 400-500 or more birds were present at McElroy Lake during the first half of September (BPB). Numbers were also present at Chaney Lake, but usually less than 100. Northern Shovelers returned to both Chaney and McElroy Lakes as early as August 8 (BPB) and although the birds were widespread, numbers were low. American Wigeon and Gadwall were seen at six locations, but in low numbers. Canvasbacks were late in arriving and were first seen at Cimarron marsh on October 22 (2 birds), but 36 were present at Lake Pewee on October 26 (JH); three drakes reached the Ohio River at Louisville by November 1 (BPB). Single Redheads were reported at Circleport Pond (KCam) and at Louisville on November 2 and 3, respectively (BPB); no others mentioned. The Ring-necked Duck (drake) that summered at McElroy Lake was last seen (and able to fly) on September 12 and a male was also seen as early as September 24 at MCFH (BPB, DP). The largest concentration, 1,000 birds, was at Lake Pewee on November 6 (JH); all other locations with less than

12 birds, with the exception of 27 birds on the Campbellsville Reservoir on November 26 (JEL). The pair of Lesser Scaup that summered at McElroy Lake remained through early September. The drake was last seen on September 10, the female with an injured wing was captured and released on nearby Three Springs Lake (BPB); not numerous this fall and usually reported in groups of less than 20, but 105 were present at Lake Pewee on October 29 (JH). A few Oldsquaws were reported: one on the Ohio River at Six-mile Island on November 16 (DP); two immatures or females there on November 29 (BPB); and an immature male on Lake Barkley just above the dam on November 18 (BPB, DP). A surf Scoter was present at Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County on November 15-19 (LMc, m. ob.). A single White-winged Scoter (female) was present at the Mayfair basins November 30 (DP). Nine Common Goldeneyes were first noted in the canal between the Falls of the Ohio and Shippingport Island on November 9 (DP); four at Lake Pewee on November 17 (BPB, DP), two still there on November 30 (JH); four on the Ohio River at Uniontown Dam, Union County on November 18 (BPB, DP); one at Caneyville watershed lake, on November 21 (JP); and three birds at Kentucky Dam State Park, November 30 (CP) were the only ones reported. A fair migration of Buffleheads occurred in mid-November with counts of 25 birds on the Ohio River at Louisville on November 12 (BBC), 30-50 at Lake Pewee on November 17 (BPB, DP); and smaller numbers appeared at Richland Lake, Grayson County (JP), Campbellsville Reservoir (JEL), Wysox Lake (KC), Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake (BPB, DP). There were more Hooded Mergansers reported than usual, although not in large flocks: 17 at Richland Lake, November 12 (JP), 20+ at Green River Lake, November 26 (JEL), 25 on the Ohio River at Louisville, November 12 (BBC), two at Mayfair basins, November 12 (JK), one at Camp Ernst Lake, November 16 (LMc), and a young bird observed occasionally on the transient lakes during August and September (BPB), and again on October 7. A Common Merganser (female) was noted on the Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, November 30 (DP). Red-breasted Mergansers were not numerous this fall; peak count of 15 on the Ohio River at Louisville on November 12 (BBC); 15-20 on both Lake Pewee and Kentucky Lake above the dam on November 17 (BPB, DP); and six at Green River Lake, November 26 (JEL). Two Ruddy Ducks returned to Lake Pewee on October 11 and peaked there on November 2 with 237 birds (JH); and a peak of 35+ on Kentucky Lake above the dam, November 17 (BPB, DP).

Vultures through Falcons — An interesting flock of vultures was observed at dusk on October 28 on a tower at the Kentucky Utilities Company, Carroll County, with at least 53 being Blacks, probably more (KCam, JCam). Twenty-one Turkey Vultures were found feeding while on the rocks below McAlpine Dam on August 25 (LR); 60-70 in two groups soaring over Kenlake State Park on November 6 (CP); and 75-100 roosting near Spring Fork Bottoms, northwest Grayson County, November 20 (JP). Ospreys were widely observed, with one to three birds at the following locations: Kentucky Lake islands near Hamlin, south of Draffenville, Marshall County, Lake Barkley, Sledd Creek, Marshall County, Jonathan Creek, Lake Pewee, McElroy Lake, Green River at Mammoth Cave National Park, Barren River Lake, BPS, Freeman Lake, McAlpine Dam, Markland Dam, Gallatin County, East Bend, Pulaski County Park, and MCFH (m. ob.). A nest of Ospreys near Lake Barkley was observed on

August 19, with one adult bird carrying sticks to the nest, and the other adult sitting nearby (m. ob.). At least nine Mississippi Kites were seen at one time over Wickliffe, Ballard County on August 20 and as many as 15-20 were seen flying low over the outskirts of town (MM); no others reported. The following Bald Eagles were reported: an immature at Duck Island WMA on Lake Barkley, Trigg County on August 19 (BPB, DE); one on the Ohio River near the Louisville Boat Club on October 18 (Ed. Triner *vide* JB); an immature near Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on November 25 (BPB, DP); and another on the Ohio River at Cox's Park at Louisville on November 29 (BPB). Both adult and juvenile Northern Harriers were observed in Ohio and Muhlenberg counties (BPB); a peak of 25 birds noted in Ohio County on the Peabody Homestead Surface Mine area on November 11 (KC, BBC); and a female reported at MCFH on September 4 (FB). Single Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were sighted in the Westport area, Oldham County on October 1 (BM *et al.*), Ohio County, November 11 (KC); scattered sightings throughout the period in Boone County (LMc); four Cooper's at BPS (KC) and one at Eagle Creek, Gallatin County on October 8 (KCam, JCam). No Broad-winged Hawk flights were observed; one noted at Creason Park at Louisville on October 3 (JB, PB). Thirty or more Red-tailed Hawks were present on the Peabody Homestead Mine in southern Ohio County on November 11 (KC, BBC). An unusual number of "Krider" Hawks were reported: one in southern Ohio County on August 12 (KC, LR), November 10 (KC, AW), two on October 29 (BPB, DE); one in eastern Muhlenberg County on October 15 may have been the same bird as in Ohio County, just across the Green River (BPB); and two were observed in the Danville area during November (no date given—WK, F. Loetscher). A Rough-legged Hawk was first observed in southern Ohio County on October 24 and two there on November 19 (JP); and four to six birds in southern Ohio and eastern Muhlenberg counties on November 25 (BPB, DP). A total of 12 American Kestrels was noted on the PHSM on August 7 (KC, HLC). A Merlin was observed on the Surrey Hills Farm, Jefferson County on November 24 (Photo-BPB). A fair number of Peregrine Falcons were reported. Single birds were found at the following locations: Chaney and McElroy Lakes on August 3 (BPB, DP); below McAlpine Dam on August 25 (LR); Falls of the Ohio on September 3 (perhaps the same bird as on August 25—JEl, BBC) and on October 1 (TH); Honker Lake in LBL in mid-September (Ed Ray *vide* LS); along I-75 near Berea, Madison County, September 24 (BA, WH); Lexington on October 6 (Mike Burns *vide* BPB); Bluegrass Industrial Park on September 29 (JK); and on the Ohio River near the Big Four Bridge, Louisville, October 24 (FK).

Wild Turkeys through Cranes—Two Wild Turkeys were seen near the entrance to Mammoth Cave National Park on September 17 (LR); and six noted during the period off Covered Bridge Road, Oldham County (*vide* JK). Ten small Northern Bobwhites with an adult bird were observed at Madisonville, Hopkins County, September 13 (JH); a total of 24 was present at Spring Fork Bottoms, Grayson County on November 21 (JP); eight were flushed near Wysox Lake on November 11 (KC).

The Sora maximum was five on SWMA on September 17. Two American Coots remained all season on the small marsh on the Peabody Homestead Mine (KC); three summered at McElroy Lake through September 10 when it was nearly dried up and another was seen on Chaney Lake on August 13

(BPB). Migrant birds showed up first at Lake Pewee — nine birds on September 27 (JH), where they peaked at 965 on November 2 (JH); not numerous elsewhere this fall. There was an unusually good flight of Sandhill Cranes this fall when hundreds passed over Kentucky. Sixteen observers reported birds in the following counties: Boone, Breckinridge, Casey, Daviess, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henderson, Pulaski, Jefferson and Madison. Best flights occurred November 3-12 and November 20-27.

Shorebirds — As usual, shorebird migration varied from poor to good depending on local habitat conditions. There was little activity at the Falls of the Ohio and in northern Kentucky, only fair at Jonathan Creek, but excellent at the transient lakes when 25 species were observed on September 10. However, few large concentrations were present this fall. Single adult Black-bellied Plovers were present at McElroy Lake on August 17-20, September 8-10 (BPB), Falls of the Ohio on September 15 (LR); three to four birds at Jonathan Creek October 21 to November 3 (CP); six to seven juveniles at Duck Island WMA on September 29 and a single juvenile was seen as late as November 10 at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB). Three lesser Golden Plovers were first seen at McElroy Lake on August 12 (KC, BPB, LR); numbers built up there and 12 birds were present in late August through early September; on September 12, 25 adults and three juveniles appeared and finally they peaked at 42 birds (32 adults, 10 juveniles) on September 16 (BPB). Ten birds were still at Chaney Lake on October 7 (probably some of the same group). Also, eight juveniles were at Duck Island WMA and four birds at Jonathan Creek, both on September 29 (BPB) and two at the Falls of the Ohio on October 15 (BPB). A single Semipalmated Plover had reached Chaney Lake by July 22 and peaked at McElroy Lake on September 8-10 with 35-40 birds (BPB); four to five at Jonathan Creek on September 7 (CP) and seven there on September 10 (MM); approximately 15-20 were seen at Duck Island WMA on August 19 (BPB, DE); and last observed along the Ohio River at Henderson on October 21 (one bird — BBC). Single birds were also reported at MCFH on August 5, 7 and 8 (FB). The Piping Plover was only recorded at McElroy Lake (one to three birds) on various dates from August 20-September 8-10 (m. ob.). Killdeer peaked at McElroy Lake at 200-250 and 200 at Jonathan Creek during August and early September (BPB and CP, respectively). Ten American Avocets were present at MCFH on August 6 (FB); and one observed at the Falls of the Ohio on September 30 (LR). Greater Yellowlegs were not numerous and were late in arriving; 12 were first noted at McElroy Lake on August 6 (KC, AW); few at Chaney Lake, but 13 at Hardy Slough on SWMA on October 21 (BBC, BPB). One bird lingered at the Falls of the Ohio until November 12 (BBC), and two were still at Lake Pewee on November 17 (BPB, DP). Lesser Yellowlegs were more numerous, but only reported from six locations; peak counts at McElroy Lake totaled 250+ on September 12 and 85 at Chaney Lake on September 16 (BPB). Ten to 16 birds were at Jonathan Creek from September 10-16 (MM), 30 there on September 29 (BPB) and present in smaller numbers up until October 26 (CP); and three to six birds at Lake Pewee, MCFH and Lake #9, Fulton County (JH, FB, CP, respectively). One to two Solitary Sandpipers were present at Lentz's Pond August 7 (S) to 18 (LR); and present at the transient lakes by the beginning of August, with a peak at McElroy of 20-25 birds on August 6, and 17 at Chaney on August 13 (BPB). Five to eight Spotted

Sandpipers were observed at the transient lakes in the early part of the period (BPB), a few birds on the Green River in MCNP in late August and September 6-8 (BPB, R. Cicerello); three at the Falls of the Ohio as late as November 3 (LR) and one still there on November 10 (BPB). The rare Upland Sandpiper was recorded on a few occasions: two birds at Chaney Lake on July 28 (BPB), one at McElroy on September 2 (BBC), two in flight over McElroy Lake on September 10 (DP, BPB), and one at Lake #9, October 2 (CP). A juvenile Ruddy Turnstone was present at McElroy Lake on September 2-10 (BPB) and was the only one reported. Three juvenile Red Knots were at the transient lakes September 2-12 (BBC *et al.*). Sanderlings appeared at four locations with the earliest at McElroy Lake on August 22 (two to three adults) with a peak there of six to eight juveniles on September 10 (BPB); four juveniles at Duck Island WMA on September 29 (BPB); two to five at the Falls of the Ohio September 5 (LR) and 16 (BPB); and four juveniles at MCFH on September 4 (FB) and singles there as late as September 30 and October 6 (FB). Five observers reported the Semipalmated Sandpiper present from July 22 to September 16, with peak counts of 55 (most or all adults) at McElroy on August 6 and 30-50 (most all juveniles) there on August 27-September 8 (BPB); smaller numbers at Duck Island WMA (BPB, DE), Chaney Lake (KC, AW, BPB), and Jonathan Creek (CP).

Five observers reported the Western Sandpiper, an uncommon fall transient, from Trigg County to Rowan County from August 3 to October 15 in numbers from one to six or eight, with the exception of 20+ birds (most or all juveniles) at McElroy Lake. Least Sandpipers were not as numerous this fall, most reports were from five to 15 birds (MM, CP, BBC); a peak count of 75-100 (many juveniles) at McElroy Lake September 2-10 and 20 at Chaney Lake, October 7 (BPB). Four birds lingered at Jonathan Creek until November 1 (CP) and 11 birds at Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County as late as November 11 (KC, BBC, DP). Few Baird's Sandpipers were observed: one adult and 4-6 juveniles were present on various dates at McElroy Lake from August 8-September 16; one at Duck Island on August 19 (BPB, DE); and one at MCFH (BPB, DP). Numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers peaked at 300-500 at McElroy Lake August 20-22 (BPB); 35 at MCFH on August 25 (FB); 35-40 at both Honker Lake and Duck Island WMA on August 19 (BPB, DE). The birds were almost absent at the Falls of the Ohio, and only six to eight were found at Jonathan Creek (MM, CP) and Lake Pewee (JH). Late departures included one at the Paradise Steam Plant on November 11 (KC, BBC) and six at Jonathan Creek on November 30 (CP). The Dunlin appeared in low numbers this fall. One to 10 birds were recorded from September 29 to November 1 at the following locations: Duck Island WMA (BPB), Chaney Lake (BPB, DP, DE), PHSM (BPB), Hardy Slough on SWMA (LR, BBC), and Jonathan Creek (CP). Highest Dunlin counts were: 13 at MCFH (FB) and 18 at Paradise Steam Plant, November 11 (BBC). Stilt Sandpipers were on schedule and recorded at the transient lakes and at Jonathan Creek, with a peak count of 30-35 birds at McElroy Lake on September 2-8 (BPB). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper showed up at McElroy Lake on August 22 and comprised the first fall record there. Other birds arrived and remained through September 16, with a peak count of 16 on September 4, which tied the record count for the state (BPB). Short-billed Dowitchers arrived at McElroy Lake in early July and remained

through September 12 with a peak count of 25-30 there on September 2-4 (BPB); and 19 present at Duck Island WMA on August 19 (BPB, DE). Eight to nine dowitcher sp. were also noted at Jonathan Creek on September 7-10 (CP, MM). Quite unusual was the early arrival of the Long-billed Dowitcher at two locations: two birds at McElroy Lake on August 6 (call notes of one heard — BPB) and 13 at MCFH on August 25 (identified by call notes — FB). Also, one bird at McElroy Lake on August 20-22 (excellent plumage details — BPB). Other sightings at more normal dates included one on September 10 at McElroy Lake (BPB), one at the small, marshy area on the PHSM on October 15 (KC, HLC, BPB — photo by Clay) and October 29 (BPB, DE); six at MCFH on October 16 (FB), eight at Lake Pewee on October 29 (no call notes indicated — LR). Common Snipes were present from August 13 to November 30 at eight locations (m. ob.) with a peak count of 44 at Hardy Slough on SWMA on October 1 (LR); 35 at Lake Pewee on November 17 (BPB, DP) and 23 still there November 30 (JH). A single Wilson's Phalarope was seen at McElroy Lake on August 6 (KC, AW, BPB) with a peak of at least five birds there on August 22-September 2 (BPB). An unaged Red-necked Phalarope was also observed at McElroy Lake on September 10-12 (BPB and several observers).

Gulls — A Laughing Gull (second-winter) was found on Lake Barkley near Boyd's Landing ramp September 28 (BPB). A single Bonaparte's Gull was present at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County on October 18 (JEL). One to nine birds were observed from November 11 to 26 at the following locations: Ohio River at Louisville (DP, BPB), Richland Lake, Grayson County (JP), Goose Pond (JP), near Paradise Steam Plant (KC, BBC, DP), Lake Pewee (BPB, DP), and Green River Lake (JEL), with a maximum of about 30 at Kentucky Lake near the dam on November 27 (BPB, DP) and 15 at Laurel River Lake, Laurel County on November 12 (JEL). It was interesting that as many as 1500+ Ring-billed Gulls reached Green River Lake by November 26 (JEL); several hundred birds were scattered at various places on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes from late September through November (BPB); low numbers elsewhere. Although Herring Gulls were present at five locations numbers were low, however, about 50 were present on Lake Barkley near Boyd's Landing ramp on September 28-29. A first-winter Thayer's Gull was seen below Kentucky Dam on November 18 (BPB, DP). Unusually early were the three Lesser Black-backed Gulls (different ages) perched fairly close to one another on Lake Barkley near Boyd's Landing ramp on September 28 (BPB). The following day only the adult bird could be found and was studied at close range (BPB, with Joe T. Erwin, CP). One bird (probably one of the three from September 28) was seen in flight and perched below Barkley Dam on November 18 (DP, BPB).

Terns — Caspian Terns were scarce with three at the Falls of the Ohio on August 16 as the earliest arrivals (LR), 11 there on August 21 (LR) and a peak of 14 on September 16 (BPB). Other sightings were: four to nine birds at McElroy Lake September 2-4 (BPB); two at Freeman Lake, Hardin County on September 4 (SK); and one at Wysox Lake on September 23 (RH). A Common Tern was noted at the Falls of the Ohio on September 15 (LR). Forster's Terns were scarce with few reports: one to six at McElroy Lake on August 6 (KC, AW, BPB); one at Pulaski

County Park on October 1 and 18 (JEl); and seven at Jonathan Creek on October 21 (CP). A single Least Tern at Lake #9 on August 3 was the only one seen (CP) and the only one reported. There was a good flight of Black Terns at the transient lakes with peak counts of 60 at Chaney Lake and 125+ at McElroy Lake on August 6 (BPB, KC, AW).

Cuckoos through Chuck-will's-widow — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo lingered at Munfordville and was last observed November 2 (SK). One to two Short-eared Owls were present on the PHSM on August 7 and September 3 (KC, HLC) and were probably birds that summered there. Other sightings in Ohio County were made with a maximum of 12 on November 19 (JP); also, four to six were seen on the Peabody Sinclair Mine in eastern Muhlenberg County on November 25 (BPB, DP). Single birds were found in Kenton County (W. Moring *fide* KCam) and on the Outer Loop Land-fill, Louisville (RH, S. Washburn). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard as late as September 1 at Hanson, Hopkins County (B. West *fide* JH).

Swifts through Hummingbirds — A flock of 30 Chimney Swifts was seen as late as October 22 at Louisville (DN). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds peaked at BPS on August 14 with 25 birds (KC); and 30-35 at Murray, Calloway County on August 19 (WB). Three birds lingered at BPS through October 9 (KC) and one was observed at close range October 20-25 at Science Hill, Pulaski County (JEl). An adult male *Rufous Hummingbird*, an accidental vagrant here, was noticed at BPS on September 25 (HLC) and was still present at the end of November (KC—details to be published later). Another *Selasphorus sp.* was found at a feeder in Nicholasville, Jessamine County by Earl Boggs on October 17 and was last seen on October 25. The bird was an immature male and probably a Rufous (EB, m.ob.).

Martins through Swallows — Purple Martin migration was in full swing in early August when 400-450 were noted at Cave Run Lake Dam, Rowan County on August 7 (FB); hundreds crossed the Ohio River at the Falls of the Ohio on August 8 (S, FS, DS) and 50+ observed at Science Hill, Pulaski County on August 21 (JEl). A late fledgling was seen leaving a nest at Leitchfield, Grayson County on August 12 (AW *fide* KC). A group of 30 Tree Swallows was present at the Mayfair basins on October 20 (DP). A flock of 136 Northern Rough-winged Swallows was observed at SWMA on electric wires on October 1 (LR); and two were still there as late as October 21 (BPB). A large concentration of approximately 1000 Bank Swallows was present at McElroy Lake in August (no specific date given—BPB). Small numbers of Cliff Swallows appeared with other swallows at McElroy Lake during August and early September with a peak count of 25+ on September 4 (BPB). A Barn Swallow was last observed at Science Hill on October 11 (JEl). An albinistic Barn Swallow was discovered at McElroy Lake on August 13 (KC, LR) and observed again on September 8 (BPB).

Crows through Thrushes — A Fish Crow was heard several times below Barkley Dam, Lyon County on November 18 and established a late date for Kentucky (BPB, DP). Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived in September and were reported from at least seven locations, but in small numbers. Only single Winter Wrens were reported at Joe Creason Park, Louisville (JB, PB) and at Glasgow (RS). The Sedge Wren that was heard

in late July southeast of McElroy Lake continued to be heard throughout August and it or another was flushed on October 7 (BPB, DP, DE); one in Caperton swamp area on October 20 (DP); and two to three birds were seen at SWMA on October 21 (BBC). A Marsh Wren was first seen at Duck Island WMA on September 29 (BPB) and at least one was observed on SWMA, October 21 (BBC); no others reported. There was a good migration of Golden-crowned Kinglets on November 12 at BPS with 15 birds sighted (KC). Good numbers of Eastern Bluebirds were present in Trigg and Lyon counties, particularly in Trigg (WB). A tower-kill was noted with 50+ Swainson's Thrushes found dead under the WGRB-TV tower near Columbia, Adair County on September 24. Most birds were freshly killed the previous night (JEL).

Catbirds through Shrikes — A Gray Catbird was still present at BPS on November 30 (KC). A few Water Pipits were reported: one at Jonathan Creek on September 29 (BPB), six there on October 26 (CP); a few at Chaney Lake on October 7 and flocks of 10-25+ at Surrey Hills Farm on several dates from late October to mid-November (BPB). Great numbers of Cedar Waxwings were found in Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on October 6 (JB, PB), a flock of 375-400 birds remained in the Morehead, Rowan County area from November 5-7 (FB) and small flocks elsewhere during the latter part of the period. There were only four reports of single Loggerhead Shrikes.

Vireos through Warblers — A male Bell's Vireo was still singing on the newly discovered nesting area on the Peabody HSM on August 3 (BPB, DP). Four Philadelphia Vireos were fairly early at the Falls of the Ohio on August 31 (DP). Good warbler movements occurred on September 2-4 and September 25-28. A Blue-winged Warbler observed in the willows at the Falls of the Ohio was late on October 11 (DP). Several Tennessee Warblers lingered at BPS for several weeks and were last seen on November 12, a late date (KC). An Orange-crowned Warbler was fairly early at Lexington Cemetery on September 24 (BA, WH) as was a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Joe Creason Park on August 27 (JB, PB). One or two Cape May Warblers arrived early in an Anchorage yard on September 2 (BM); and numbers increased at Bernheim Forest by September 30 where six were seen (JB, PB). A single Black-throated Blue Warbler was present at Valley Station, southwestern Jefferson County on September 29 (DS) and one at BPS on October 14 (A. Powell *vide* KC). Yellow-rumped Warblers arrived at BPS on September 4 and peaked there at 100 (no date given for the peak — KC); good numbers were at Munfordville, Hart County (SK); and 36 were seen while on a field trip to Bernheim Forest on September 30 (JB, PB). Also a total of 50 Pine Warblers was tabulated at Bernheim Forest on September 30 (JB, PB). Single Blackpoll Warblers were observed at MCFH on September 24 and at Surrey Hills Farm on October 2 (BPB). All characteristic markings of these birds were noted.

Dickcissels through Siskins — Two Dickcissels were still present at SWMA on October 21 (BPB). An early American Tree Sparrow returned to Louisville October 11 (DP). A few Chipping Sparrows lingered into November: two near Barkley Dam, Lyon County, November 18 (BPB) and one at Murray as late as November 29 (CP). Two to five Vesper Sparrows were present on Surrey Hills Farm on scattered dates from mid-October

to early November; also, a flock of six was noted on a reclaimed surface mine northeast of Cool Springs, Ohio County on October 29 (BPB). A flock of 15 Savannah Sparrows was found at Masterson Station Park, Lexington on September 24 (BA, WH). Transient Savannahs were numerous on the reclaimed surface mines of Ohio and Muhlenberg counties during October (BPB). A fledgling Grasshopper Sparrow was still being fed by its parents on the PHSM on August 7 (KC). A group of eight or more Henslow's Sparrows was seen off the Cool Springs-Wysox Road on August 12 (KC, LR). BBC members flushed both a LeConte's and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow and had good looks at these rare transients at SWMA on October 21. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen as early as August 31 in the willows at the Falls of the Ohio (DP); singles noted at Mayfair basins on September 24 (JK), Bullittsburg and East Bend, Boone County, October 7 and 9 (LMe), Freeman Lake on November 1 (RH), and Grassy Pond Unit, Henderson County, November 5 (JP). Numbers of Swamp Sparrows began arriving in mid-November with 35 at Rowan County Sphagnum Swamp on November 11 and a high count of 55 there November 30 (FB). Lapland Longspurs returned to Surrey Hills Farm on November 12 (BPB), Chamberlain Lane, Jefferson County, November 30 (DP), and in Lyon and Livingston counties November 18 (BPB). On September 24 a Bobolink was found dead under the WGRB-TV tower, near Columbia by JEL (fresh kill), and another observed at Masterson Station Park (BA, WH); also a few were seen and heard at McElroy Lake September 2 (BPB) through October (BPB, DP, DE). A large flock of 2000+ blackbirds (Red-winged, Brown-headed Cowbirds and European Starlings) was seen on August 6 on Schuler Lane, Oldham County (S, FS). Common Grackles left early this fall and small flocks in November were unusual. Purple Finches were scarce and reported from only four locations from October 26-November 30, with the greatest number 12-15 at Hanson, Hopkins County (B. West *vide* JH). As usual, House Finches were numerous with as many as 100+ at a feeder at Science Hill on November 30 (JEL); and 62 on a path at Riverside Sanctuary, Louisville on November 25 (LR). Pine Siskins were numerous and widespread. They arrived in small numbers in early October and from November 19-30 were in large flocks (m. ob.); 50-60 birds at a feeding station in Valley Station (DS), 50+ at Crittenden, Grant County (KCam, JCam), but 250-300 at BPS on November 19 (KC, HLC) and 100+ at Leitchfield (KC, AW).

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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1989-1990

Reports of 23 counts were received from across the state. A total of 116 species was recorded on count days, 100 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days that are not represented on the table include: one Common Loon (Land Between the Lakes), one Black-crowned Night-Heron (Louisville), six Mute Swans (Paradise), one Tundra Swan (Louisville), one Red-breasted Merganser (Louisville), one Osprey (Marion), one Peregrine Falcon (Hart County), one Glaucous Gull and one Lesser Black-backed Gull (Land Between the Lakes), one Common Barn-Owl (Danville), two Long-eared Owls and 64 Short-eared Owls (Paradise), two Bewick's Wrens (Danville), one Water Pipit (Land Between the Lakes, Paradise and Warsaw), one Lincoln's Sparrow (Louisville) and two Snow Buntings (Paradise). Nineteen species were observed on only one count day and 15 species were observed on all count days. The additional sightings of a Prairie Falcon (Hart County and Danville), and a Snowy Owl (Lexington) brought the species total to 118 species. There was one more species observed this year compared with last.

At the beginning of the count period, the temperatures were well below normal, ranging from 0 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit. By the end of December the temperatures had rebounded into the low 50's. The extremely cold temperatures encountered so early may have accounted for the Snowy Owl. Canada Goose numbers were up considerably from last year as were the numbers of Mallards. In general, waterfowl diversity was similar to previous years and numbers were up only slightly. The record high number of Short-eared Owls on the Paradise count was interesting as were the sightings of Long-eared Owls here and at Danville. In addition, it was encouraging to have one report of a Common Barn-Owl. The sighting of Prairie Falcons in two new locations the year following their discovery in the state leads to speculation of a developing trend. The sighting of the western race of the Rufous-sided Towhee ("Spotted" Towhee) on the Otter Creek count was exciting. The Lincoln's Sparrow and Bewick's Wrens were also nice additions to the count. Other nice finds are listed in the previous paragraph.

Although conclusions can not be made based on these census data, several findings were of interest. The number of Eastern Bluebirds (1024) was down compared with the number (1427) last year, but comparable to the number the year before last. No large winter roosts were reported again this year as reflected in the number of blackbirds and starlings. The number of House Finches jumped again this year by 1,566 birds. However, unlike previous years the number of House Sparrows increased by 225 birds. The number of Purple Finches remained about the same. Pine Siskins were more abundant this year compared with last and the number and variety of sparrows were good. Food crops for these birds appeared to be in good supply perhaps due to the wet summer.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts.

CALLOWAY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential and 35% pastures and open fields. Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 38° F to 53°F; wind SW, 0-3 m.p.h.

Eleven observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 45.5 (13.5 on foot, 32 by car). Total party-miles 341 (15.5 on foot, 325.5 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 6,171. A Ruddy Duck was observed during the week of the count.

Due to poor visibility the count was extremely low for waterfowl.

Observers: Wally Brines, Happy Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Rick Hokans, Sally Leedom, Dick Marzolf, Mike Miller, Carl Mowery, Clell Peterson and Lawrence and Luanne Philpot.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 22%, overgrown and cultivated fields 28% and residential and small business 10%. Dec. 16; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 0°F to 15°F; wind NW, 5 m.p.h. Lake effect snow showers on the west shore of Kentucky Lake occurred in the morning. Twenty three observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 62.25 (24 on foot, 38.25 by car). Total party-miles 431.5 (26.5 on foot, 405 by car). Total species 92; total individuals 22,946. One Common Loon was the only one seen for the state on a count day. A Glaucous Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull were observed only on this count and reports were accompanied by field notes. A Water Pipit was identified and the sighting documented.

The species count is a high record for this count.

Observers: Wally Brines, Jim Carpenter, Richard Cassell, Happy Chambers, Lloyd Curry, Jack Dodd, Lorine Dodd, Melissa Easley, Jeff Elam, Bob Head, Rick Hokans, Ruth Jacquot, Richie Kessler, Sally Leedom, Dottie McCord, Carl Mowery (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Donald Parker, Clell Peterson, Ed Ray, Tommy Sherwood, Steve White, Ray Zimmerman.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat open, brush, woods and river with flowing ice. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 34°F to 35°F; wind NW, calm. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 12 (6 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 30 (6 on foot, 24 by car). Total species 39; total individuals 2,471. One Osprey was observed on the count day.

Observers: C. L. Frazier (compiler) and Jim Frazier.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279-S and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat fields, ditches, large woods, shrubs by fields. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky foggy to noon, then cloudy; temp. 43°F to 51°F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Very poor for birding.

Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 47 (28 on foot, 19 by car). Total party-miles 122 (28 on foot, 94 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 1,990. The Sandhill Crane observation was documented.

Observers: Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Janet Howard, Joyce Porter, Tommie Stevenson, Ed Wilson (compiler) and Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Kentucky Highway 405 and junction at Route 662 at Yelvington, Ky.) Habitat Ohio River Bottoms, Fish and Game Farm, roadside ditches, fields and woods. Dec. 16; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast to clear; temp. 0°F to 10°F; wind 10-15 m.p.h. Other weather comments: cold with a severe windchill factor.

Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 12 (3 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 17 (4 on foot, 13 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 1,355.

The cold temperatures coupled with the windchill below zero and only seven observers kept us from covering our normal territory. In fact, we covered only about 50% of the territory of former years. The lakes and ponds were frozen. The feeders at the Rays and Powells were active and contributed a number of species that was not found afield.

Observers: Mack Cameron, Jan Howard, Bert L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Marvin Ray, Maudie Ray and Dr. Bill Tyler.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields and creek bottom. Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 34° to 42°F. Other weather comments: early morning drizzle.

First time starlings were sighted on our count.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 6 (5.5 on foot, 0.5 by car). Total party-miles 10 (6 on foot, 4 by car). Total species 20; total individuals 163.

Observers: Roseann Radzelovage (compiler) and Walt Radzelovage.

PARADISE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Pond Run Road and Wysox-Cool Springs Road in southern Ohio County.) Habitat 30% grasslands, 20% woodlands, 20% farmland, 20% brushy edges and fields, 10% lakes and streams. Jan. 1; 4:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly to mostly cloudy; temp. 26°F to 40°F; wind NW, 0-20 m.p.h.

Thirteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 40.5 (20 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 246 (9 on foot, 237 by car +2 hours owling). Total species 81; total individuals 13,223. Additional birds sighted on count day but not included on the table are six Mute Swans, two Long-eared Owls, 64 Short-eared Owls, one Water Pipit, and two Snow Buntings.

Coverage of the count circle was more comprehensive this year accounting for the increase in both the number of species (up from 63 on the first count) and total counts for many. Waterfowl were in great abundance as a result of the previous week's cold spell. Totals for Canada Geese, Mallards and American Black Ducks represent best-guess estimates. The Mute Swans, apparently wild, were present on the Cool Springs Lake in Ohio County for a brief time in 1988 and had been there for at least a week prior to the count. The Bald Eagle, an adult, was seen in flight over the same lake (JB, PB). The Wild Turkey was counted on the basis of tracks in a fresh snowfall that had occurred during the early morning of count day (CM, DP). This year's count yielded more representative figures for the raptor population in this area, but certainly still falls below the numbers actually present. The Red-tailed Hawk total includes

at least two "Krider's" Hawks. The total for Short-eared Owls (64) represents a compilation of evening counts from four different areas plus one additional daytime roost. This total would have represented a U.S./Canada CBC high for any year in the 1980's. Next year we'll shoot for the all-time high of 103 tallied on an Oregon CBC in 1953! The Long-eared Owls were seen in Virginia Pines in Muhlenberg County where they were discovered in January 1989. The Water Pipit was heard as it passed overhead (CP). Both the Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were found with flocks of Horned Larks in Muhlenberg County (DE, BPB). The Eastern Bluebird total (186) attested to the fact that they survived the period of cold weather in December.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Hap Chambers, Diane Ebel, Sally Leedom, Carl Mowery, Joan Noel, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Don Parker, Clell Pettrson and Mary Sprague.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forests 20%, fields and pastures 70% and town and parks 10%. Dec. 16; 5:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 0°F to 15°F; wind W, 0-7 m.p.h. Other weather comments snow one inch deep; standing water frozen.

Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (9 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 102 (5 on foot, 97 by car). Total species 54; total individuals 3,852.

Two coyotes were seen in the transient lake area.

Observers: Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason, Bill Mathes, Ruth Mathes, H. E. Shadowen (compiler) and Mrs. William Upton.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 17; 5:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly sunny; temp. 7°F to 25°F; wind NE, 7 m.p.h. Other weather comments: one-two inches of snow cover and ponds and creeks were frozen or partly frozen, respectively.

Four observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24 (10 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 64.3 (14 on foot, 50.3 by car). Total species 41; total individuals 3,686.

An Eastern Phoebe was observed following closely after three deer for approximately ten minutes — possibly looking for insects disturbed by the deer in their feeding. A coyote approached to within 30 yards in response to squeaks aimed at attracting birds. The number of Wild Turkeys was estimated from different sets of tracks in newly fallen snow.

Observers: Marquita Gillenwater, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Wayne Mason, Herb E. Shadowen.

GLASGOW (center and habitat as described in 1986.) Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 4:35 p.m. Sky clear (morning) — overcast (midday); temp. 23°F to 34°F; wind W. NW, 0-7 m.p.h.

Nine observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 51 (42.5 on foot, 7.5 by car). Total party-miles 109.5 (8.5 on foot, 101 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 3,817.

Observers: Mrs. Ossa Lee Follis, Justin Gillenwater, Marquita Gillenwater; Francis Jones, Howard M. Jones, Malcolm Jones, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Doris McKinley, Robert McKinley, and Billie Mae Moore.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the intersection of Ky. Hwy. 54 and U.S. Hwy. 79, Short Creek, Kentucky in Grayson County.) Jan. 1; 4:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Sky clear until dawn, then cloudy; temp. 32°F to 40°F; wind calm.

Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 7.75 (0 on foot, 7.75 by car). Total party-miles 87 (0 on foot, 87 by car). Total species 34; total individuals 1,379.

Observers: Joyce Porter (compiler) and Doralee St. Clair.

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Craddock Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat farms, woodlots, Green River, large pond and forest. Dec. 21; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly sunny; temp. 8°F to 22°F; wind gusting.

Other weather comments: occasional snow showers and cold winds.

Five observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 81 (6 on foot, 75 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 983.

The Peregrine Falcon was seen clearly at approximately 200 feet by Kistler and Sturgeon on the day of the count. One Prairie Falcon was observed during the count period. Documentation was included for these sightings in the report.

Observers: Bruce Bardin, Carol Friedman, Bruce Middleton, Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton, and Mitchell Sturgeon.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 22%, woodlands 30%, farmland 34%, ponds, creeks and river 14%. Dec 31; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 44°F to 36°F; wind N, 12 m.p.h.

Other weather comments: few rain showers in a.m. and brief snow showers in p.m.

Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 37.5 (20 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party-miles 178.5 (11 on foot, 167.5 by car). Total species 72; total individuals 10,213.

Despite the frigid weather the week before the count with temperatures minus nine and fifteen degrees below zero and four to five inches of snow on the ground, we had a fairly good count. Ponds were frozen, but fortunately, Doe Lake was open and a nice variety of ducks gathered there. Birds of prey were well represented. Horned Larks were in good numbers while Carolina Wrens hit the highest number since the count of January 1, 1976.

Northern finches were scarce and Field Sparrows continued to be in low numbers, but slightly better than in the past two counts. The Starling population was unusually high with a total of 5,334 birds. The western race of the Eastern Rufous-sided Towhee, (the "Spotted" Towhee) was found outside the park by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Richard Cassell. The bird was well described and was photographed.

Observers: Janet Aylward, Mary B. Bauer, Richard Cassell, Stephen Figg, Tim Love, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Jim Pasikowski, Chris Roman, Helga Schutte, Anne L. Stamm (compiler) and Frederick W. Stamm.

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1989-1990

| | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | PARADISE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NTL. PARK | GLASGOW | FALLS OF THE ROUGH | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | SOMERSET |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|----------|
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | 21 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| HORNED GREBE | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DOUBLE CR. CORMORANT | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 4 | 64 | *1 | | | | 6 | 2 | 1 | 28 | | 3 | 2 | 4 | 20 | * | 1 | | 17 | 27 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| SNOW GOOSE | | | | | | | 56 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | 178 | 10257 | 100 | 25 | 70 | | 4595 | 137 | | 240 | 41 | * | 127 | 130 | 612 | * | 272 | 53 | 277 | 2071 | 98 | 28 | 103 |
| WOOD DUCK | * | 8 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 20 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | * | 49 | | | | | 570 | | 2 | 14 | | | 28 | 1 | 72 | | 14 | | 5 | 150 | | 16 | 5 |
| MALLARD | * | 1069 | | 10 | 8 | | 1855 | 186 | | 172 | 25 | 1 | 175 | 40 | 1152 | 3 | 164 | | 174 | 1985 | 31 | 254 | 54 |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| GADWALL | | 8 | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | 7 | | 4 | | 5 | 2 | | 1 | |
| AMERICAN WIGEON | * | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | |
| CANVASBACK | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | 4 | | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | | 6 | | | | | 18 | | | | | | | 5 | 1 | | | | | | | | * |
| GREATER SCAUP | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LESSER SCAUP | | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | 25 | | 13 | | | | | | | | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | * | 100 | | | | | 7 | | | | | | 5 | | 1 | | | | | 14 | | 1 | 1 |
| BUFFLEHEAD | | 41 | | | | | | | | * | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | |
| HOODED MERGANSER | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | | | 8 |
| COMMON MERGANSER | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 2 | |

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1989-1990

| MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1989-1990 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|----------|------|
| CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGOH | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | PARADISE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NTL. PARK | GLASGOW | FALLS OF THE ROUGH | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | SOMERSET | |
| PILEATED WOODPECKER | 8 | 37 | * | *1 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 27 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 22 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | |
| EASTERN PHOEBE | 1 | 4 | | | | | | 8 | 1 | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HORNED LARK | 15 | 5 | | 122 | 50 | 270 | 126 | | 10 | | | 390 | 102 | 252 | * | 75 | | 8 | 240 | | 70 | | |
| BLUE JAY | 151 | 176 | 26 | 45 | 15 | 10 | 133 | 24 | 83 | 20 | 22 | 214 | 175 | 319 | 22 | 99 | 49 | 92 | 70 | 78 | 26 | 28 | |
| AMERICAN CROW | 71 | 54 | 140 | 60 | 20 | 5 | 204 | 39 | 67 | 158 | 48 | 40 | 244 | 166 | 328 | 47 | 113 | 164 | 838 | 95 | 59 | 78 | 9 |
| CAROLINA CHICKADEE | 90 | 168 | 18 | 35 | 24 | 5 | 157 | 38 | 20 | 54 | 3 | 23 | 104 | 94 | 251 | 4 | 91 | 24 | 117 | 113 | 63 | 11 | 11 |
| TUFTED TITMOUSE | 125 | 231 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 112 | 14 | 42 | 32 | 5 | 16 | 78 | 65 | 106 | 11 | 54 | 10 | 55 | 69 | 61 | 8 | 13 |
| RED-BR. NUTHATCH | 1 | 3 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 5 | 2 | 10 | | | | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | |
| WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH | 29 | 46 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 29 | 18 | 31 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 15 | 27 | 3 | 2 |
| BROWN CREEPER | 1 | 7 | | 2 | 3 | | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | * | 5 | 5 | 14 | | | | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 2 | |
| CAROLINA WREN | 23 | 52 | 2 | 11 | 8 | | 52 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 1 | 8 | 43 | 80 | 76 | 4 | 48 | 33 | 51 | 27 | 17 | 6 | 7 |
| WINTER WREN | 4 | 4 | | | 1 | | * | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | |
| GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET | 4 | 75 | | | | 1 | 54 | 3 | 23 | 25 | 1 | 3 | 58 | 35 | 65 | * | 18 | 9 | 21 | 16 | 12 | 3 | 2 |
| RUBY-CR. KINGLET | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| EASTERN BLUEBIRD | 74 | 36 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 186 | 34 | 46 | 30 | 13 | 85 | 59 | 21 | 44 | 40 | 30 | 134 | 100 | 48 | 23 | 10 | | |
| HERMIT THRUSH | 2 | 15 | | | 1 | 6 | 16 | 1 | | * | * | 7 | 4 | | * | | | | | | | | |
| AMERICAN ROBIN | 292 | 65 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 80 | 331 | 34 | 432 | 207 | 92 | 80 | 919 | 1020 | 824 | 148 | 362 | 360 | 500 | 142 | 133 | 154 | 12 |
| N. MOCKINGBIRD | 59 | 13 | 18 | 23 | 10 | 1 | 18 | 35 | 31 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 48 | 79 | 20 | 29 | 3 | 50 | 50 | 20 | 5 | 3 | |
| BROWN THRASHER | 1 | 6 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | * | 3 | * | 1 | | 2 | | | | |
| CEDAR WAXWING | 29 | 49 | | 12 | | 49 | 36 | 54 | 7 | 513 | 20 | 236 | 257 | 135 | 75 | 52 | 141 | | | 188 | 22 | | |
| LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE | 15 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 7 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | | | | |
| EUROPEAN STARLING | 2231 | 250 | 250 | 514 | 300 | 12 | 1396 | 2400 | 2310 | 1570 | 395 | 110 | 5334 | 769 | 3509 | 1264 | 785 | 159 | 3008 | 3432 | 216 | 156 | 3022 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|
| YELLOW-R. WARBLER | 21 | 1 | 25 | 12 | 113 | 30 | 22 | 85 | 100 | 13 | 5 | 41 | 24 | 24 | 8 | 2 | 21 | | | | | | | | |
| PINE WARBLER | * | 1 | | | * | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL | 564 | 346 | 200 | 63 | 115 | 10 | 263 | 47 | 24 | 79 | 36 | 68 | 231 | 158 | 904 | 38 | 167 | 40 | 215 | 272 | 212 | 108 | 11 | | |
| RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE | 46 | 95 | 6 | 3 | 3 | | 37 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 52 | 27 | 38 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 6 | * | 11 | 11 | | | |
| AM. TREE SPARROW | 10 | | 4 | | | | 38 | | | | | | 33 | 10 | 12 | 5 | 16 | | | 14 | 29 | 22 | | | |
| FIELD SPARROW | 58 | 42 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 42 | | | 25 | 12 | 24 | 64 | 19 | 10 | 15 | 5 | 57 | 6 | 11 | | | | | |
| SAVANNAH SPARROW | 6 | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| FOX SPARROW | 3 | 6 | | * | | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 16 | | 3 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| SONG SPARROW | 83 | 85 | 14 | 38 | 25 | 2 | 196 | 40 | 9 | 51 | 1 | 25 | 94 | 132 | 587 | 14 | 87 | 28 | 89 | 87 | 64 | 42 | 8 | | |
| SWAMP SPARROW | 4 | 23 | | 5 | | | 60 | 3 | | 16 | 10 | 31 | 19 | 57 | | 4 | 4 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| WHITE-THR. SPARROW | 153 | 166 | 100 | 33 | 15 | 8 | 78 | 64 | 48 | 42 | 42 | 129 | 128 | 280 | 3 | 106 | 23 | 90 | 26 | 33 | 25 | 2 | | | |
| WHITE-CR. SPARROW | 1 | 9 | 150 | 35 | 10 | | 30 | 8 | | 6 | 3 | 4 | 89 | 31 | 50 | 17 | 25 | 28 | 32 | 6 | 25 | | | | |
| DARK-EYED JUNCO | 345 | 791 | 500 | 9 | 20 | 7 | 347 | 43 | 223 | 39 | 35 | 60 | 358 | 332 | 494 | 8 | 341 | 64 | 91 | 91 | 103 | 71 | 9 | | |
| LAPLAND LONGSPUR | | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD | 321 | 702 | | 4 | | | 68 | 180 | * | | 4 | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 200 | 1 | 13 | | | | | |
| E. MEADOWLARK | 65 | 44 | 14 | 37 | 40 | | 156 | 3 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 21 | 63 | 9 | 13 | 52 | 16 | 72 | | * | | | | | |
| RUSTY BLACKBIRD | 2 | | | | | | 9 | | | | 5 | 2 | | | 21 | * | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| COMMON GRACKLE | 39 | 2 | 8 | 75 | 1 | | 256 | 1 | 250 | 21 | 76 | 13 | 14 | 2 | * | | | 50 | 205 | 2 | * | | 2001 | | |
| BR.-HEADED COWBIRD | 9 | 59 | 12 | 4 | 10 | | 467 | 3 | * | | 7 | | | | 3 | 7 | | 15 | 18 | 15 | 9 | 3 | 5 | | |
| PURPLE FINCH | 43 | 10 | | | | 3 | 17 | 3 | 42 | 16 | 17 | 29 | 65 | | | | | 87 | 520 | 14 | 666 | 515 | 61 | 20 | 165 |
| HOUSE FINCH | 48 | 6 | 20 | 125 | | | 1 | 131 | 240 | 30 | 122 | 110 | 113 | 583 | | | | 10 | 2 | 53 | 3 | | | | |
| PINE SISKIN | 113 | 11 | | 75 | | | *3 | 21 | 14 | 25 | 2 | 12 | 49 | 3 | 5 | | | 10 | 2 | 53 | 3 | | | | |
| AM. GOLDFINCH | 202 | 104 | | 18 | 82 | | 39 | 24 | 6 | 22 | 20 | 6 | 47 | 25 | 206 | 7 | 187 | 27 | 87 | 73 | 140 | 30 | 29 | | |
| HOUSE SPARROW | 164 | 275 | 600 | 529 | 75 | | 394 | 48 | 32 | 21 | 203 | 153 | 1060 | 266 | 188 | 27 | 252 | 405 | 72 | 18 | 20 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-------|------|------|------|------|-----|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| DAY OF COUNT | D30 | D16 | J1 | D30 | D16 | D31 | J1 | D16 | D17 | J1 | J1 | D21 | D31 | D30 | D17 | D30 | D17 | D30 | D30 | D30 | D16 | J3 | |
| NUMBER OF SPECIES | 65 | 92 | 41 | 46 | 52 | 20 | 81 | 54 | 41 | 61 | 34 | 55 | 72 | 64 | 83 | 41 | 62 | 39 | 62 | 67 | 51 | 55 | 42 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 6171 | 22946 | 2471 | 1990 | 1355 | 163 | 13223 | 3852 | 3686 | 3817 | 1379 | 983 | 10212 | 5017 | 14102 | 2509 | 4301 | 1522 | 7921 | 11579 | 2354 | 1430 | 5641 |
| OBSERVERS | 10 | 23 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 35 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 25 | 34 | 4 | 8 | 3 |

*Birds observed during the count period, but not on the count day.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy with some fog; temp. 44°F to 56°F; wind S-SW, 0-15 m.p.h.

Other weather comments: light rain showers in p.m.

Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24.5 (10.5 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 135 (5 on foot, 130 by car, plus 1 hour owling). Total species 64; total individuals 5,017.

Although the weather was rainy and the number of observers was below average, a respectable total of 64 species was tallied. Most water was frozen, in part accounting for the low waterfowl diversity. Wild food crops appeared to be good. For the number of observers afield, totals for most species were about average. The Wild Turkeys represent a portion of the growing Bernheim Forest flock. Pine Siskins were reported from a local feeder.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Richard Cassell, Diane Ebel, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Donald Parker and Lene Rauth.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 17; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy in a.m., partly cloudy in p.m.; temp. 1°F to 15°F; wind SW, 0-2 m.p.h. Most water frozen, only Ohio River open; three inches of snow.

Thirty-five observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 89 (40 on foot, 49 by car). Total party-miles 436 (43 on foot, 393 by car). Total species 83; total individuals 14,102.

The extremely cold weather during the week resulted in frozen lakes, ponds and streams, with only the Ohio River open. As a result, the waterfowl count (except for Canada Goose and Mallard) was down, both in species and numbers. Blackbird and starling counts were also down; no winter blackbird roost developed locally, and cold weather probably chased most scattered birds south. Other landbirds, however, were present in good numbers. House Finches continue to increase dramatically.

The two rarities found were a single Tundra Swan on the Ohio River (with a flock of Canada Geese), and a Lincoln's Sparrow, well-seen (all field marks noted) by an observer familiar with the species. Two other additional species observed on the count day but not included on the table are one Red-breasted Merganser and one Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Mary Bauer, J. Aylward, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Marie Blahnik, Roland Blahnik, K. W. Clay, Donna Coates, S. A. Figg, Katy Fulkerson, D. L. Garst, Wayne Hinkle, Frank Krull, Sr., John Krull, Bob Lehman, Colin Lindsay, Tim Love, Barbara McFarland, Jim McFarland, B. L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mark Monroe, K. C. Mudd, Austin Nightengale, Doxie Noonan, J. S. Noonan, Martha Pike, Bob Quaife, Lene Rauth, Helga Schutte, Tony Smith, Anne Stamm, F. W. Stamm, Midge Susie, Marge Yater (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.75 miles south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY Highway 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farm land, fallow land, residential, wooded and grassland. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky extremely foggy with rain the entire day; temp. 40°F to 45°F; wind S, 10-15 m.p.h.

Five observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9 (0 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 147 (0 on foot, 147 by car). Total species 41; total individuals 2,509.

Fog and rain created visibility problems the entire day and curtailed the activity of birds and watchers (outside).

Observers: Leslie Brown, Todd Brown and W. H. Brown (compiler), Sean Ellington and J. C. Higgins.

FRANKFORT (center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 17; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy in a.m. to partly cloudy in p.m.; temp. -1° F to 14° F; wind SE, 0-5 m.p.h. Snow cover three inches, all water frozen except small moving areas.

Ten observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 35.5 (13.5 on foot, 22 by car). Total party-miles 160 (11 on foot, 149 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 4,301.

The severe cold, snow cover and slick roads prevented participation by some regulars and resulted in more feeder watchers than usual. Waterfowl were well represented, with most being found at the State Game Farm where shelled corn was supplied. It was unusual not to find Brown Creepers either at Frankfort or Kleber. The Pine Warblers were carefully studied in a grove of young pine trees at a city park. House Finches continued their dramatic growth in numbers with a 60% increase over 1988. This was a good representative count for Franklin County and reflects the presence of an excellent wild food crop.

Observers: Charles Bowers, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Charles Grayson, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Howard Jones (compiler), Margaret LaFontaine, Debbie Williams and Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1977.) Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 45° F to 53° F; wind S, 0-15 m.p.h. Dense fog early with snow melting, intermittent rain with fog in p.m., ponds, lakes and Kentucky River frozen.

Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 26 (12.5 on foot, 13.5 by car). Total party-miles 114 (10 on foot, 104 by car). Total species 39; total individuals 1,522.

The unfavorable weather kept the list down. The Canada Geese were flying over the Kentucky River in late afternoon. The Black Vulture roost was found along the Kentucky River just at dusk. There was an excellent wild food crop in Owen County this year.

Observers: Ron Duncan, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Eric Harrod, Howard Jones (compiler but not participant), Sally Wasielewski.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church and Bates Creek Road.) Habitat farmland and residential. Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 45° F to 50° F; wind calm. Foggy.

Twenty-five observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 64 (4 on foot, 60 by car). Total party-miles 270 (5 on foot, 265 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 7,920.

Observers: Earl Boggs, Rose Canon, Manton Cornette, Ruth Davis, Phylis Deal, Lyda Feck, Doris Fern, Link Fisch, Bill Gregory, Teresa Gregory, Karen Hughes, Terri Kontz, Betty Maxson, Robert Morris (compiler), Ruth Morton, Glenn Raleigh, Ed Seiler, Lewis Shaine, Jo Stofer,

Marie Sutton, Andrew Uterhart, Marion Uterhart, Jim Williams, Jim Wilson and Bernice Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat 13% water/edge, 3.5% urban, 18% cultivated, 33.5% field/fence, 28% woodland edge, and 4% feeder. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp., 20°F to 40°F; wind calm. Foggy in early morning, scattered showers all day.

Thirty-four observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 61.5 (17 on foot, 44.5 by car). Total party-miles 479 (20 on foot, 459 by car). Total species 67; total individuals 11,579. Two Bewick's Wrens were observed on count day but not included on the table. A Short-eared Owl and a Prairie Falcon were observed during the week of the count.

Observers: Chauncey Alcock, Ron Barbato, Jason Boyle, Ed Caldwell, Bob Corcoran, Lois Corcoran, Andy Eklund, Jinny Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Scott Eklund, Colby Foster, Martha Foster, Tobin Foster, John Gower, Dorothy Belle Hill, Tom Kearns, Bill Kemper, Chuck Kohler, Fred Loetscher, Dan MacDonald, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, John B. Nichols, Rob Pendygraft, Herb Petitjean, Jim Roessler, Joe Russell, Lee Russell, John V. G. Smith, Chris Strecker, Maynard VanHorn, Virginia VanHorn, Greg Wagner and Cathy Wilson.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, KY.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 30%, farmland and fields 30%, streams and river 35% and residential 5%. Dec. 30; 6:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sky overcast with heavy fog; temp. 38°F to 45°F; wind S, 0-8 m.p.h. Ohio River open, lakes and ponds frozen.

Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 28 (11 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles 199.5 (3.5 on foot, 196 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 2,354.

Dense fog prevailed the entire day seriously hampering visibility. High numbers were noted for Great Horned Owls, Cedar Waxwings and Pine Siskins, while no Belted Kingfishers were found for the first time in 15 years.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, Vivian Brun, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler) and Tommy Stephens. Feeder watchers were Marjorie Hill, Lynda McNeely, Carmen Schulte and David Stephens.

WARSAW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse.) Habitat river and shore 35%, open field and farmland 30%, woodland and forest edge 30% and residential 5%. Dec. 16; 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to sunny, some morning fog; temp. -4°F to 11°F; wind W, 5-10 m.p.h. Approximately four inches of snow cover on the ground, lakes and streams frozen, Ohio River open.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 17.5 (3 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party-miles 163 (1 on foot, 162 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 1,430. One Water Pipit was sighted (documentation included).

Despite the frigid conditions, a good variety of birds was found. The Double-crested Cormorant and Bonaparte's Gulls were found at the Ghent power plant.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Lee McNeely (compiler) and Tommy Stephens.

SOMERSET (Area and habitat as described in 1980.) Jan. 3; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 32°F to 54°F; wind S, 0-5 m.p.h.

Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 60 (4 on foot, 56 by car). Total species 42; total individuals 5,641.

Small lakes and ponds were partially frozen.

Observers: Jackie B. Elmore, Sr. (compiler), Gay Hodges and Steve Kickert.

BOOK REVIEW

ON THE WING *The Life of Birds: From Feathers to Flight*, By Bruce Brooks, with illustrations from several sources. Published by Macmillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 192 pp., \$40.00. 1989.

ON THE WING is a companion to the P.B.S. series "Nature." The style of arrangement and presentation makes it difficult work to review. The printed text is arranged in six chapters, and each chapter has inserts of material; these inserts, varying in length from two paragraphs to five pages, provide much information on migration, brood parasitism, etc., but interrupt the flow of the subject matter. Perhaps they should have been included in the usual manner rather than as inserts.

Brooks makes it clear in the introduction that his objective is not to produce a comprehensive coverage of ornithology but to encourage the reader to take pleasure in expanding his knowledge of birds and their ways. "A complete understanding of birds is as hard to catch as a flying goldfinch." Throughout, the skill of several photographers has been used to emphasize features stressed by the writer, and the photography is excellent.

One should not write reviews during the final exam period or during the busy Christmas season. As I attempted to hurriedly read ON THE WING I was not impressed. The descriptions of feathers and beaks seemed tedious. I did not like the frequent entomologically-incorrect use of "bug", the words "kids" and "blind salamanders" for young birds, and the description of young birds growing "from pink newts to cocky-tailed adolescents." However, it seems evident that the author enjoys his task as he plunges into in-depth discussions of the feather, flight, feeding, and home life and ends with a plea to mankind to intelligently use our environment. He uses many expressive figures of speech with colloquialisms, similes, and metaphors, and creates some of his own expressions along the way. Examples of the latter include "pelleteers" for pellet-forming species, "Birddom", and "downright litterish" in describing seasonal replication of nests. Some readers may not appreciate but should have no difficulty in understanding expressions such as "up-for-grab holes, the whole shebang collapses, highfalutin' food merchants," and "from shell bred to well fed — one to grow on, so to speak" in the context in which they are used. He likens the fecal sacs of chicks to "twist-tied plastic trash bags" and a cuckoo in a warbler's nest to "too much chocolate ice cream on a dainty cone." As I continued to read, my boredom turned to interest and then to enthusiasm, and I was drawn back to some subjects for a second reading. The description of the Great Blue Heron on page 32 indicates extreme observational skill, and I was intrigued by his theory that "the

art to which birds have contributed the greatest inspiration is music." Musicians in particular will be interested in reading pp. 167-169. As a biologist I was attracted to his comments concerning evolution. Some were terse, such as the phrase "evolution has not smiled on the avian penis", while others on the subjects of the evolution of the feather, wing, clutch size, alarm calls, and migration were more involved. The final chapter discussing birds and man and conservation is especially well written and illustrated with vivid photography.

In conclusion this is one of those publications I want to retain in my library so I may return to it from time to time to read selected topics and enjoy the photography. I hope others who read ON THE WING will have a similar reaction.

— H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

FIELD NOTES

PRAIRIE FALCON(S) OBSERVED IN HART COUNTY

On December 18, 1989, I was leaving a food store in Munfordville on highway 31-W about 0.5 mile north of town. I was accompanied by my six year old son. As I raised up from putting my groceries in the back seat of my car, I observed a bird of prey flying slowly toward me at low altitude. The sun was south of me, as it was shortly after noon; the bird was flying toward me from the northwest. It was a sunny day and the visibility was excellent. Although I did not have binoculars, I was able to quickly determine that the bird was a falcon and that it was too large to be an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). At first I assumed the bird might be a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), but as it flew toward me I realized that it was paler than any Peregrine I'd ever seen. The bird flew slowly toward me and passed approximately 20 feet directly overhead. Even without binoculars the black axillars stood out clearly. I then realized the falcon was a Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), and I confirmed this identification by referring to my field guides when I got home a short time later.

As I watched the bird fly to the southeast, I noticed another falcon of the same size, shape, and pale color following the first. I could see no field marks on the second bird, but the two flew together for another two minutes or so as they flew slowly away from me.

I have not been able to locate these birds since that sighting.

— STEVE KISTLER, 1335 Sam Goodman Road, Munfordville, Kentucky.

WHIMBREL IN BALLARD COUNTY

On May 3, 1989, I was birding at Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area near Wickliffe in southern Ballard County when I discovered a Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) feeding with a small group of mixed shorebirds in a flooded field on the northwest side of the entrance road into the management area. The bird was observed in the early afternoon and studied for nearly an hour as it fed and rested in the shallow waters. Several photographs clearly showing all field marks were obtained and

have been deposited with Anne L. Stamm, editor of the Seasonal Reports feature of *The Kentucky Warbler*. Other species of waterbirds in the flooded field included several Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) and Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), about a dozen Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*), several Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*) and a Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) in full breeding plumage.

The Whimbrel was quite large, dwarfing all other shorebirds near it, and judged to be at least the size of a Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). It was light brown in overall color, slightly darker on the upperparts and marked with distinct, dark bars, especially on the back. The crown was blackish-brown with an obvious light median stripe. The legs were blackish and the bill was dark, rather long, and deeply decurved at the tip with a trace of orange-red basally. On one occasion the curlew took flight, loudly calling a repeated whistled note typical of the species, but it returned to the same spot after restlessly coursing around the vicinity for several minutes. In flight, the underwing was rather comparable in tone to the rest of the underparts, showing no trace of the rufous underwing color typical of some of the other species of curlew, most notably the Long-billed Curlew (*N. americanus*). After birding in the management area for approximately forty-five minutes, I returned to the flooded field on my way out, but the Whimbrel could not be relocated. Because of the restless behavior it displayed earlier in the afternoon, it was assumed to have moved on.

This represents the third record of the Whimbrel for Kentucky and the first to be substantiated with photographic documentation. Although all three Kentucky records have occurred in May, records accumulated in surrounding states suggest that the occasional occurrence of this species in late summer and early fall should be expected, as well.

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

SPRING RECORD OF RED-NECKED PHALAROPE AT McELROY LAKE

On May 20, 1989, ten members of the Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Chapter of the K.O.S., were studying shorebirds at McElroy Lake, Warren County, when a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) was discovered with a large flock of mixed shorebirds feeding in a grassy pasture partially inundated by the lake.

The bird was not in full breeding plumage of an adult female as depicted in the common field guides, but nonetheless, it was quite striking in appearance and was much brighter than the typical male breeding plumage as shown in the same guides. The upperparts were slate blue-gray including a narrow stripe up the back of the neck and onto the crown and face. The sides of the nape were a bright rufous and the back was marked with several stripes of buff. The breast was darker than the belly, but not so strongly blue-gray as in the typical breeding female as depicted in the guides. An area about the chin was white, and the bill was dark, straight, and rather thin. The legs were dark. Above the eye was a short supercilium of light color (a character apparently not typical of adult females). The bird was rather small, being somewhat larger than many nearby Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*), but smaller

than several nearby Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*). In flight, the bird's wings were very dark with an obvious light wing stripe. The phalarope was viewed by all in the group and studied intermittently for more than an hour as it rested and fed in shallow water with the other shorebirds. Several color photographs of the resting bird were obtained that clearly show the distinctive plumage characters. A representative of these photos has been deposited with Anne L. Stamm, editor of the Seasonal Reports feature of *The Kentucky Warbler*.

This individual, or another in the same plumage, was apparently observed by Gary Boggs on May 23 on another portion of the lake. It is assumed that the plumage observed was that of a female, molting into breeding plumage. This represents one of less than fifteen records of the Red-necked Phalarope in Kentucky, and the first for spring in the state.

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF THE SHARP-TAILED SPARROW IN KENTUCKY

The Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) is a variable species found sporadically across eastern North America, but primarily in marshes along the east coast. Individuals of the inland race (*A. c. nelsoni*) nest in the central prairie region of southern Canada and cross the mid-western United States in migration on their way to and from wintering grounds on the Gulf coast. While on migration, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow is generally found in moist, weedy or grassy areas, especially along the marshy shores of bodies of water, but it has been found occasionally in drier, weedy fields, as well.

Prior to 1986, the occurrence of Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Kentucky was verified only by a single photographic record from the Louisville area in late October 1977 (Parker, KW 54:15, 1978). Beginning in 1986, myself and others began to investigate excellent habitat for this species on the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs Wildlife Management Area in western Henderson County, and Sharp-tailed Sparrows have now been found there on three occasions. In addition, in May 1989, the state's first spring record was verified by a group of observers in Warren County. Details of these observations follow.

On October 12, 1986, Doxie Noonan, Lene Rauth, Cathy Justis and I flushed at least two, and perhaps more, Sharp-tailed Sparrows from dense, weedy growth along the marshy edge of Hardy Slough on the Sauerheber Unit. Both birds were studied at close range for several minutes. The day was overcast and a light, intermittent rain was falling, making photographic documentation impossible. Nevertheless, all of us were able to view the spectacular markings of bright orange-yellow on the face and breast, gray ear and nape patches, dark brown wings with light wing bars, dark back with whitish striping, and orange-buff flanks streaked with brown. The Sharp-tail's were found amidst a loose group of at least several dozen Swamp Sparrows (*Melospiza georgiana*). This face, along with the further observation of large numbers of Swamp Sparrows (perhaps totalling over 200 birds on the management area alone) on the same day prompted the speculation that the occurrence of the rarer Sharp-tail's corresponded with what must have been the peak of Swamp Sparrow migration.

On October 11, 1987, Richard Cassell and I observed (and photographed) a Sharp-tailed Sparrow along a grassy roadside strip approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Hardy Slough on the Sauerheber Unit. Photographs of the bird clearly showing the bright face pattern, gray nape, and white stripes in the back have been deposited with Anne L. Stamm, Seasonal Reports Editor for *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Although these observations were gratifying, the occurrence of this species during spring migration, as evidenced by at least four mid-May records from the state of Tennessee (M. Bierly, pers. comm.), indicated that the species should be found during spring migration, as well. On May 20, 1989, while birding at McElroy Lake in southern Warren County, a group of ten observers from the Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to study, nearly at leisure, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow that was discovered in a grassy fenceline next to the lake. All were able to obtain excellent views of the bright, orange-yellow face pattern and breast, gray cheek patch, gray sides of the nape, and white-striped, brownish back. This observation represents the first well-verified record for the state in spring, as Robert Mengel (*Birds of Kentucky*, p. 519) lists only a hypothetical record from near Louisville.

Finally, on October 1, 1989, approximately a dozen members of the Beckham Bird Club observed at least one Sharp-tailed Sparrow along the marshy border of Hardy Slough on the Sauerheber Unit. As with the birds observed in 1986, this individual was found with a fairly large flock of Swamp Sparrows. Once again, all field marks were noted including the strong face pattern, bright orange-yellow breast color, and white-striped dark back, all indicative of the inland race.

Subsequent to several years of successful searching for this elusive transient, it appears that with persistent investigation of appropriate habitat, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow can be found at least for short periods during its spring and fall migrations. While the Sharp-tailed Sparrows affinity for water makes thick, marshy or lakeshore habitats the most likely in which to find the species, it appears that close scrutiny of other thick, weedy vegetation may yield success, as well. I would like to thank Mike Morton of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, for allowing us access to the management area on several occasions.

— BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at Rough River Dam State Park on April 27-29, 1990. Anyone planning to attend should make their reservations and room accommodations early. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005.

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Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Dr. Herbert L. Clay, Jr. for the excellent photograph of the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) taken at Big Pond Sanctuary (See Field Notes).

THE WINTER SEASON, 1989-90

ANNE L. STAMM

Mild weather persisted through December 6. A few days later the pattern changed and one to four inches of snow fell all across the state. Temperatures began dropping by the middle of the month and it was 4 degrees below zero in Gallatin and Jefferson counties on December 16. A strong cold front brought a blast of arctic air into the state on December 21-24. Temperatures plunged from 9 to 23 degrees below zero in central Kentucky. The gusty winds produced a wind chill of 35-50 degrees below zero at Louisville.

Lakes and rivers were ice-covered and waterfowl was found frozen in the ice. Some land birds were found dead due to the harsh weather.

December experienced below-normal and January and February above-normal temperatures.

It is interesting to note that Canada Geese were more numerous than usual, particularly in western Kentucky. Wintering Bald Eagles were numerous, perhaps due to frozen waters in the north. Interesting species of gulls were found on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.

Winter finches were disappointing. Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills and Common Redpolls failed to show up, however, Pine Siskins were fairly common. Evening Grosbeaks were almost nonexistent.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; LBL = Land Between the Lakes. The transient lakes are Chaney and McElroy, south of Bowling Green, Warren County.

Loons through Grebes — A single Common Loon was seen on a small pond southeast of Cool Springs in southern Ohio County on December 2 (BPB) and one was still present on Kentucky Lake above the dam on the LBL CBC on December 16. Several wintering Pied-billed Grebes were reported: 20 above Kentucky and Barkley Dams on January 5 (CP), nine at Green River Lake, Taylor County on January 14 (JEL), two on the Ohio River at Louisville on January 30 (LR) and one at the Cool Springs Lake, Ohio County on February 10 (KC *et al.*). The only Horned Grebes noted in December were the three birds on the LBL CBC, however, a few began reappearing in mid-February with singles at Freeman Lake, Hardin County (RH), at McElroy Lake, Warren County on February 18 (LR) and three there the following day (BPB). An Eared Grebe at the transient lakes on February 18 was unexpected (LR).

Cormorants through Herons — A fair number of Double-crested Cormorants was present before the cold weather in late December: at least 50 were seen at Lake Barkley, near Silo Overlook on December 10 (BPB), 20+ on Energy Lake, Land Between the Lakes on December 3 (BPB, Ed Ray), two flying over Shippingport Island, Jefferson County on December 20 (LR) and a single bird south of Markland Dam, Gallatin County on December 16 (KCa, JCa). One bird was still present on Lake Barkley on January 26 (JB, PB). Great Blue Herons were present in good numbers in early December, but January records showed fewer birds due to the cold and ice (m.ob.).

Swans through Geese — An adult Tundra Swan was present at BWMA from early to mid-December (BPB) and one reported on the Louisville CBC, December 17. Feral Mute Swans were numerous in late December: six were present on Cool Springs Lake in southern Ohio County on December 23 - February 10 (KC), up to eight there during that period — no date given (BPB). Two birds were noted on a small pond in southern Ohio County on February 3 (RH, KC). A large flock of "about 20 unspecified swans" was seen on Lake Barkley on December 26 by Ed Ray. The birds were seen daily until January 3 when he reported them to Carl Mowery and Clell Peterson who identified the birds as 17 Mute Swans (16 adults, one immature). Two of the birds were wearing yellow neck bands (no letters or numbers were seen on the bands). This is the largest flock ever reported in the state (CM, CP, Ed Ray). Only seven swans were present on January 5, the last date they were seen (CP, Ed Ray). A single bird was also observed at Towhead Island, Louisville on January 5 (LR). Five Greater White-fronted Geese (three adults, two immatures) were observed on a lake, locally known as Cooley's Lake, in northeast Wayne County on December 10-February 7 (JEL, D. Elmore, Steve Kickert, Richard Hines); only three birds on the latter date and all were gone after that (JEL). Snow Geese peaked at 15,000-20,000 at BWMA on December 19 (CW); nine were on a small lake near Union, Boone County on December 2 (LMc); 10+ in southern Ohio County on January 27 (KC, BBC); an adult and an immature at Cooley's Lake on December 3 (JEL); and three at McElroy Lake, Warren County as early as February 18 (LR). An adult Ross' Goose was seen at McElroy Lake on February 24 (Gary Boggs *fide* BPB) and observed the following day, February 25 (BPB, DE) and still present on March 4 (BPB, JB, PB, LR). Canada Geese were numerous this winter and peaked at 170,000 at BWMA on December 19 (CW). The species was widespread with thousands in southern Ohio County on December 23 (KC) and a similar number in Muhlenberg and Ohio counties during late December and early January (BPB); 600+ at Mills Springs on Lake Cumberland, Wayne County on December 20 and 250+ at Cooley's Lake on December 13 (JEL). January high records included 294 at Lake Pewee (JH), 300+ at a pond, locally known as Thurston's Pond, Wayne County, north of Monticello, January 6 (JEL), 500+ at Larue County Sportsman Club Lake on January 7 (JEL), 150 on Honkers Lake, LBL on January 26 (JB, PB), 75-200 at different locales in Pulaski County (JEL), 200+ in a flooded field at East Bend, Boone County on February 11 were transients moving northward (LMc). Smaller numbers were found in Taylor County (JEL) and Grant County (KCa, JCa).

Ducks — The duck population peaked at BWMA on December 19 with 15,000 to 20,000 (CW) with the majority being Mallards. American Black Ducks and Mallards were more numerous in late December than the previous year. The CBCs showed the former species as being up 59% and the latter species up 142% over the CBCs last year, probably due to the frozen waters up north. Wood Ducks began showing up at various locations in February with the earliest (several pairs) on February 8-9 near Swan Lake, Ballard County (BPB), a pair at Petersburg, Boone County on February 11 (LMc), four at Mills Springs on February 14 (JEL), others at Chaney Lake, Warren County (BPB) and Lentz's Pond, Louisville (JB, PB) on February 19 and 25, respectively. A flock of at least 50 Green-winged Teal was still present at Honker Lake in LBL December 10 (BPB) and 15 was the largest number observed on Thurston's Pond on January

16 (JEL); eight birds were present at a pond near Petersburg on December 2 (LMc). Smaller numbers (1-5) were present in the early part of the winter at Lake Pewee (JH), LBL (JB, PB), and Louisville (JP, BBC). Ten Green-winged Teal had returned to McElroy Lake by February 19 (BPB) and two at Lentz's Pond by February 25 (JB, PB). Northern Pintails were scarce during the winter, but a few began showing up at the Woodburn Lakes, Warren County on February 4 (BPB) and at Lentz's Pond on February 25 (JB, PB). A fair number of Northern Shovelers remained through early to mid-December: 40 at Bailey Hollow, Calloway County on December 9 (CP), five at Cooley's Lake, December 13 (JEL), and two at Lake Pewee on December 10 (JH). A male Northern Shoveler was a fairly early arrival on Kentucky Lake above the dam on February 11 (BPB *et al.*); and a dozen or more showed up at McElroy Lake on February 25 (BPB). Thirty Gadwalls were present at Thurston's Pond from January 6 to February 28 (JEL) and ± 150 were counted at Bailey Hollow on January 13 (CP). American Wigeons were practically gone by the time of the CBCs, but earlier 75-100 were seen on Honker Lake, LBL on December 3 (BPB, Ed Ray) and 125 there on December 10 (BPB), while 75+ were noted at Cooley's Lake on December 10 (JEL). Spring arrivals began showing up at Lentz's Pond on February 25 (JB, PB) and 28 (LR). As usual, Canvasbacks were not numerous; highest number reported was the flock of 55 along the Ohio River, near Smithland, Livingston County, February 11 (BPB, JEL *et al.*). A few Redheads showed up in February: several in backwater near Swan Lake, Ballard County on February 9 and a male on McElroy Lake, February 25 (BPB); but 23 at Cooley's Lake on February 28 (JEL). Few Ring-necked Ducks were present in December after the cold weather arrived, however, 10 were seen at Cool Springs Lake on December 23 (KC) and 35 observed at McDougal Creek Lake, Larue County on January 14 (JEL). Spring migrants arrived by February 28 at Thurston's Pond with 150+ there, 17 at a small pond near Northern Junior High School, Somerset, Pulaski County (JEL); 41 also present at Honker Lake, LBL on January 26 (JB, PB). Only a few Greater Scaup were present on the Ohio River at Louisville during the period (BPB). Three Oldsquaws were reported: one, a female, at Cooley's Lake on December 13 (JEL) and two noted in flight over the Kentucky Dam on December 3 (BPB). Common Goldeneyes were not as numerous this year as last season, but about 100 were found in LBL (Honker Bay and Hematite Lake) on January 5 (CP). Others reported included two at Cool Springs Lake on December 23 (KC); six on Kentucky Utilities Company Pond just south of Markland Dam, Carroll County on January 1 (KCa, JCa), 36 at Honker Lake, LBL on January 26 (JB, PB), and six birds were on McElroy Lake on February 10 (BPB). Buffleheads were reported from only five locations with a high count of 40 at both Bailey Hollow (CP) and Thurston's Pond (JEL) on January 5 and February 28, respectively. Fair numbers of Hooded Mergansers were present in the early part of December, but the majority had gone by the latter part of the month. High counts included: approximately 500 birds on Energy Lake, LBL, December 3-10 (BPB, Ed Ray), 150+ at Cooley's Lake, December 10 (JEL), 50+ on Lake Pewee, December 10 (BPB) and 94 at Green River Lake, Taylor County, near the dam (JEL). A female Hooded Merganser remained on a small body of water at Mallard Creek crossing, Louisville throughout the month of February (KC). A concentration of more than 400 Common Mergansers was present at Honker Bay, LBL on January 5

(CP) and 60 were on Honker Lake, LBL on January 26 (JB, PB), while a flock of 90 birds was the peak count on Kentucky Lake above the dam on December 27 (BPB). Only a few Red-breasted Mergansers were reported: three on the Ohio River at Louisville, December 2 (JP, BBC), two at Cool Springs Lake on February 10 (KC *et al.*) and a male at McElroy Lake on February 18 (LR). Eighty-six was the high count of Ruddy Ducks at Lake Pewee on December 5 (JH); none were reported on the 23 CBCs; a pair was noted on McElroy Lake, February 25 (BPB).

Raptors — A few Black Vultures were seen in Bullitt, Caldwell, Jefferson, Ohio and Taylor counties (m.ob.), but 12 were seen flying over the Ohio River at Rabbit Hash, Boone County on January 13 (LMc). After the extremely cold weather in late December few Turkey Vultures were present, but birds began reappearing in mid-February. Wintering Bald Eagle numbers were encouraging with the Mid-winter survey totaling 299 birds (David Yancy, Jim Durell); details of the survey will be published later. Northern Harrier numbers appear to be improving and were more numerous on the CBCs this year compared to last year, particularly on the Paradise count with a total of 65 compared to 40 last year. Sightings for this period were also received from Calloway (CP), Gallatin (KCa), Hopkins (JH), Muhlenberg (BPB), Ohio (KC, BPB), Pulaski and Wayne (JEl) counties. There were modest increases in the number of Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks during the period. At least two immature Krider's Hawks and an immature "Rufous" phase Red-tailed Hawk were observed on the surface mines of Ohio/Muhlenberg counties on February 10 (BPB, JEl). An adult Krider's Hawk was also seen near McElroy Lake on February 19 (BPB, RH, DP). The Red-tailed Hawk population appears to be stable. Rough-legged Hawks were more widespread this year but may not have been more numerous; greatest numbers occurred in Ohio and Muhlenberg counties. Sightings other than on the CBCs included the following: various dates from December 10-February 10 in southern Ohio County with a high of six birds on the latter date (KC, *et al.*); one at Devon, Boone County on February 28 (C. Whalen); one at Fort Knox, Hardin County, January 6 (RH) and four in Ohio River bottoms above Bayou, Livingston County on February 11 (BPB). Two immature Golden Eagles were observed soaring over Honker Lake and Energy Lake in the LBL on December 3 (BPB, Ed Ray); two reported from Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County "during the winter" (M. McClure *fide* BPB). Although at the present writing the Mid-winter eagle survey is incomplete/ on January 30 it appears that a total of seven Golden Eagles (six adults and one immature) was found (D. Yancy, Jim Durell). A Merlin was seen on Surrey Hills Farm, Louisville on December 25, and was probably the same bird as was photographed there in late November (BPB). A *Prairie Falcon* was studied carefully at Burgin, Mercer County on January 2 (docum. by WK, E. D. Caldwell) and another was seen at Munfordville, Hart County on December 18 (SK).

Cranes through Shorebirds — American Coots were in lower numbers than last year and the majority left after the severe cold weather in late December. Some American Coots were found frozen in the ice of Kentucky Lake. At twilight on December 22 Clell Peterson saw a red fox "feasting on coots frozen in the ice." This same scene was also witnessed an hour earlier by Michael Miller. After the 15 to 23 degrees below zero temperatures subsided it was interesting to find 200 coots at Birmingham Point, LBL

and more than 300 at Bailey Hollow on January 6 and 13, respectively (CP). Migrant American Coots began returning in small numbers at Lake Pewee (JH) and in southern Ohio County (KC) on February 8 and 10, respectively and 150 at McElroy Lake by February 25 (BPB). Sandhill Cranes were still migrating over Kentucky on December 1 where a flock of 600 was noted over northeast Jefferson County (MSu), several groups totaling 300 over southeast Jefferson County (FK, Jr., F. Krull, Sr., J. Krull) and a few over Hart County (SK). Later December records included 25-30 over BPS (KC) and 500 over St. Matthews, suburb of Louisville, as late as December 21 (DN). A single Sandhill Crane lingered on a farm, near Burlington, Boone County January 9-10 and observed "later into February" (LMc). The bird appeared capable of flying and its prolonged presence suggests that it wintered there. Returning birds began appearing in mid-February with about 30 in Hart County (SK), eight at McElroy Lake on February 19 (BPB, RH, DP) and at least 150 or more in farmland in west Hardin County, near Cecelia in late February (JN).

Shorebirds — Lingeringshorebirds included a Lesser Yellowlegs at Lake Pewee, December 10, a late date (BPB), six Western Sandpipers at Jonathan Creek, Marshall County, December 7-13 (CP — no details), five Least Sandpipers at Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County, December 2 (BPB), two Dunlin at Paradise Steam Plant, December 2 (BPB), three at Lake Pewee, December 10 (BPB) and 11 at Jonathan Creek, December 13 (CP). Fair numbers of Common Snipe appeared in early December with 29 at Lake Pewee on December 5 (JH) and 16 at Jonathan Creek, December 7 (CP), but few were around in late December. Returning American Woodcocks were heard February 5 in Hardin County (RH) and at BPS on February 11 (KC) and about the same time in Calloway (BPB) and Barren (RS) counties.

Gulls — Small numbers (2-100) of Bonaparte's Gulls were present in six locations in early December, but few could be found after the severe cold of late December (m.ob.). A few began reappearing on February 11 on Lake Barkley at Silo Overlook (BPB, JEL, LR). Normal numbers of Ring-billed Gulls were at the western Kentucky Lakes during the period, however, numbers were reduced in late December. The 300+ birds at Green River Lake, Taylor County on January 14 were unusual (JEL). A few were present at the Cool Springs Lake area on February 10 (KC). Herring Gulls were few in the early part of December, but the cold weather brought 3000 to 5000 to the vicinity of Kentucky Dam by December 26-27 (BPB). An adult *Lesser Black-backed Gull* was seen on Kentucky Lake above the dam on the LBL CBC, December 16 (DP, BPB); one, possibly two, adults were present above Kentucky Dam, December 26-27 (BPB), with CM on 27th). An adult *Glaucous Gull* was also observed on Lake Barkley on LBL CBC, December 16 (BPB, DP); and one, perhaps two, first-year birds noted near Kentucky Dam on December 26-27 (BPB, with CM on 27th). A *Great Black-backed Gull* (adult) and two first-year birds were present in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam on December 26-27 (BPB, with CM on the 27th). This represents the first occurrence in the state of more than one bird. At least one, perhaps two first-year and at least one, perhaps two adult Thayer's Gulls were present in the Kentucky Dam area, December 26-27 (BPB, with CM on 27th).

Owls through Woodpeckers — Only one Snowy Owl was reported and that was seen during the week of the Lexington CBC. Two Long-eared

Owls were present in eastern Muhlenberg County from mid-December-January 1 (BPB); one in extreme southern Ohio County, January 27 (JB, PB *et al.* *fide* KC); an injured bird was picked up during the first week of January near Mundys Landing, in extreme southern Woodford County and turned over to a veterinarian. The bird did not recover from its injury (Jack Dyer *fide* BPB). Short-eared Owls were again numerous in southern Ohio and Muhlenberg counties. Twenty-five to 35 were counted on December 9-10 in Ohio County (KC) while a total of 64 was on the Paradise CBC, January 1 (BPB *et al.*). Other records were: three birds at the Outer Loop Landfill, southern Jefferson County during December and January (m.ob.), one at Standiford Airport, Louisville, January 8 (RH), several north of Danville in late December (WK). One bird was found dead at the Louisville Airport mentioned above on January 21, possibly hit by an airplane (RH, m.ob.). The Rufous Hummingbird which had been at a feeder at BPS since August was last seen on December 16 when the temperature was 10 degrees below zero (KC, HC). Belted Kingfishers were quite scarce in Boone County where none were recorded on the Burlington CBC for the "first time in 15 years" (LMc). Numbers were lower elsewhere in the state during the latter part of December and early January. Numbers were greatly reduced too for the Red-headed Woodpecker during late December.

Larks through Kinglets — Despite the cold weather in late December Horned Larks were present in fairly good numbers during the CBC period (December 16 to January 3). In fact, the total number on the counts was almost double that of last year. A Tree Swallow was observed at Green River Lake, Taylor County on the late date of December 30 (JEl, D. Elmore) and a spring arrival was fairly early at McElroy Lake on February 18 (LR). Although Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in low numbers during the winter months, a few were observed throughout the period. Winter Wrens were present in about average numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglets were numerous and widespread this period (m.ob.).

Thrushes through Shrikes — Eastern Bluebirds were widespread, but in lower numbers than last winter, but still a good population. Wintering Hermit Thrushes were more numerous than usual. The number of American Robins was greatly reduced in late December. They apparently moved farther south due to the severe weather since numbers were much higher last year. At least 10 Brown Thrashers were observed on December 30-January 1 at various locations after the cold weather (m.ob.). A Water Pipit lingered through December 16 in Gallatin County (KCa, JCa) and an early transient was seen on Surrey Hills Farm on February 26 (BPB). Cedar Waxwings were in fairly good numbers in central and northern Kentucky, but low numbers in the western part of the state. The Loggerhead Shrike population appeared to be comparable to last year. Interesting records included single birds off HWY 90 in northern Wayne County and in Russell County on December 13 and January 7, respectively (JEl). February 3-9 records were of single birds in Breckinridge, two locations in Grayson and Hardin counties (KC).

Warblers through Finches — Yellow-rumped Warblers were few in western and northern Kentucky, but in late December the population across the state was slightly above last year. The birds were more numerous at Mammoth Cave National Park and at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County than elsewhere. In addition to the four Pine Warblers on the Frankfort

CBC and the one on the LBL count, a male was seen in pines in eastern Muhlenberg County on December 24 (BPB). An Ovenbird was found dead on February 9 in the Audubon Park area in Louisville. The bird was last seen alive on December 21 (*vide* JB, PB) and perhaps was a victim of the extremely cold days in late December.

A male *Spotted Towhee*, the western race of the Rufous-sided Towhee, was found on the Otter Creek Park CBC, December 31. The bird remained through February 4 (Richard Cassell, BPB). American Tree Sparrows were in higher numbers than last year with fair numbers in Boone, Galatin, Ohio, Meade and Muhlenberg counties (m.ob.). A Chipping Sparrow was seen frequently from November 29-December 26 at a feeder in Murray, Calloway County (CP). In addition to the few Savannah Sparrows on four CBCs, a few were found in fields near McElroy and Chaney Lakes in February (BPB). White-throated Sparrows were down in Woodford (SH) and Jefferson (S) counties and fewer numbers were on the CBCs than last winter. The largest number at a feeding station in Madisonville was 22 on December 23 (JH). White-crowned Sparrows were in lower numbers than usual. An adult Harris' Sparrow was present at a feeder in Nicholasville, Jessamine County on January 25 (EB). Fox Sparrows were more numerous than last winter. Lapland Longspurs were present in very low numbers, but it was encouraging that they were found in five counties: one heard calling as it passed overhead in Ballard County on December 10 (BPB); at least six with a flock of Horned Larks in western Fulton County on December 17 (BPB); an immature female at the Outer Loop Landfill in southern Jefferson County, December 18 (RH); five on the Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County on December 23 (KC); two on Chamberlain Lane, Jefferson County (JB, PB); and up to six during December and early January in Jefferson and Oldham counties (BPB). The only Snow Buntings reported were the two observed in eastern Muhlenberg County on the Paradise CBC, January 1 (BPB, DE).

At least two Western Meadowlarks were observed (and the distinctive call note of one bird was heard) from a flock of 25-30+ meadowlarks in western Fulton County, December 17 (BPB, R. Cassell, D. Parker). A flock of Rusty Blackbirds (about 1000) was seen on the Outer Loop Landfill during January (RH). Five to 10 Brewer's Blackbirds were noted in farmland near McElroy Lake on February 4, 10, 19 (m.ob.) and 15 of this rare transient were counted foraging on the shore of McElroy on February 25 (BPB).

Although Purple Finches were fairly well distributed, numbers were not large and there were fewer birds in January and February (B. West). House Finches continue to be numerous and at a feeder in Science Hill, Pulaski County 100+ birds were present during the period (JEL); at least 100 also noted at feeders in a Bowling Green, Warren County yard during the winter months (W. Mathes). Smaller numbers at feeders included 35+ at Louisville, Jefferson County (S. FS), 20-30 at Murray (CP), and 20+ at BPS (KC). Pine Siskins were present in fair numbers and widely distributed: 50 were present at feeders at Valley Station, southwest Jefferson County on January 12 and continued there through February and some were still present through April (DS); 35-40 at Hanson, Hopkins County (B. West *vide* JH); peaked at 30 at Murray (CP); 36 birds at LBL on January 26 (JB, PB). The birds were evident throughout the winter season at several locations in northern Boone County (LMc) and at Madisonville from December 4-February 1 (JH). American Goldfinches were

not as numerous as last winter. There were no Evening Grosbeaks except for the two reported at New Haven, Nelson County on February 9 (*vide* JB).

Contributors — Mary Bill Bauer (MB), Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Earl Boggs (EB), Gary Boggs (GB), Joe Caminiti (JCa), K. Camaniti (KCa), Kathryn Clay (KC), Herbert L. Clay, Jr. (HC), Tony Eaden (TE), Diane Ebel (DE), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Richard Healy (RH), James W. Hancock (JH), Smith Hundley (SH), William Kemper (WK), Steve Kistler (SK), Frank Krull, Jr. (FK), Lee McNeely (LMc), Carl Mowery (CM), Joan Noel (JN), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), D. Parker (DP), Jim Pasikowski (JP), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Midge Susie (MSu), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Wilkins (CW), C. Whalen.

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING — APRIL 27-29, 1990

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 67th annual meeting at Rough River State Resort Park on April 27-29, 1990. Virginia Kingsolver, president, opened the Friday evening session with a welcome to members and guests. Lee McNeely, vice-president, introduced the evening program speakers. Blaine Ferrell presented a Tree Swallow nesting study. Dr. Herbert Clay told about a vagrant Rufous Hummingbird that came to their feeder in Grayson County for an extended period of time last season. He had excellent slides of the bird. Burt Monroe presented a study of numbers of birds in the breeding bird survey correlated with winter temperatures. The evening program concluded with a short photo quiz for which members brought 1 or 2 slides. An informal social hour followed the program.

The weather was partly cloudy with bits of rain and sunshine for the Saturday morning field trips. Lee McNeely led one group in the lodge area and Kathryn Clay led the other group to Falls of Rough.

The Clays entertained the entire group with a lovely lunch at their Big Pond Sanctuary. Members walked the trails and observed the many birds that came to their feeders.

The Board of Directors met at 3:30 p.m. in the lodge.

After a buffet dinner in the lodge dining room, the group assembled for the Saturday evening program. Virginia Kingsolver introduced Steve Maslowski, from Cincinnati, a wildlife photographer with many credits in his field. His program, "Outdoor Yearbook", included a movie of outdoor life through the year with excellent photos of life in a Great Horned Owl's nest, a gray fox's den and American Robins and Northern Cardinals sharing a nest.

A resolution from the Board was read expressing KOS's gratitude to the Clays for their generous hospitality.

The weather was sunny and warm for the Sunday morning field trips. One trip went to the Ohio County strip mine area and the rest of the group wandered in the lodge area and along the air strip.

Blaine Ferrell compiled the bird list which totaled 122 species including Sunday morning's count. Seventy-six people registered for the meeting.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING AT ROUGH RIVER STATE RESORT PARK

ANCHORAGE: Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Rose Monroe, Mark Monroe

BEAVER DAM: Charlotte Moseley

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine Ferrell, Don Freeman, Vera Freeman, Ruth Mathes, William Mathes, Herbert E. Shadowen, Jackie Shadowen

BUCKHORN: Eileen Sandlin

BURLINGTON: Lee McNeely, Lynda McNeely

CALVERT CITY: Henry Lecky, Veda Lecky

CARLISLE: Virginia Kingsolver, Wendell Kingsolver

COX'S CREEK: Dona Coates, Roger Coates

CRITTENDEN: Kathy Caminiti

CYNTHIANA: William Wiglesworth

DANVILLE: Neil Eklund, Virginia Eklund

ELIZABETHTOWN: Bobbie Rickert, Jon Rickert

FALLS OF THE ROUGH: Joyce Porter, Dora Lee St. Clair

FLORENCE: Joan Carey

HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin

HODGENVILLE: Susan Cruse

LEITCHFIELD: Alita Wilson, Montelle Wilson

LEXINGTON: Jean Flynn, Michael Flynn, Gerry Williams, James Williams

LOUISVILLE: Robert K. Brown, Joe Brue, Sandy Brue, Herbert L. Clay, Jr., Kathryn Clay, Shannon Coblin, Diane Ebel, Stephen Figg, Don Jones, Judi Jones, Tim Love, Kathryn Mudd, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Robert Pike, Frank Schoettler, Bernice Shannon, F. P. Shannon, Anne L. Stamm, F. W. Stamm, Donald Summerfield

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe, Katie Busroe

MURRAY: Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Lydia Greenwell, A. L. Powell, Milly Powell, W. T. Perkins, Ed Wilson, Elinor Wilson

PADUCAH: Bernice Caddell

STANLEY: Anna Lee Stevenson, Thomas Stevenson

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA: John Humphrey, Angela Pickron

RICHMOND, INDIANA: Janet Wickersham

DYERSBURG, Tennessee: Betty Leggett, Kenneth Leggett

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, 1990

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Rough River State Resort Park included: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 116 species. Additional species observed on Sunday field trips were Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Solitary Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler bringing the weekend total to 122 species.

FIELD NOTES

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD OF THE RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

The adult male Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) is easily differentiated from the Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) by its rufous colored back with only occasional and very slight tufts of green on the back. Its chip note is quite similar to the Allen's. There is a musical or mechanical buzz to the wing beat of the Rufous and this, although not as loud or high-pitched as the Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*), is quite characteristic and certainly different from the Ruby-throated Hummingbird's (*Archilochus colubris*) wing beat which we hear so commonly in Kentucky.

The normal breeding range of the Rufous Hummingbird in western North America is from southeastern Alaska, south Yukon, eastcentral British Columbia, southwestern Alberta, western Montana south through Washington and Oregon to the Trinity Mountain region of northwestern California and southern Idaho; it then migrates to winter in Mexico to Guerrero and Veracruz. Its migration path normally includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

During migration the Rufous Hummingbird has frequently wandered far from its normal course and has been reported frequently in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota with scattered reports from Ontario and even from Nova Scotia (*The Hummingbirds of North America*, p. 177, Paul A. Johnsgard).

As observers of hummingbirds, my wife, Kathryn, and I have been privileged to study and enjoy from ten to thirty Ruby-throated Hummingbirds every year at Big Pond Sanctuary in Grayson County for the past nineteen years. It is the primary hummingbird that one sees east of the Mississippi River.

On Monday evening September 25, 1989, Kathryn and I arrived at our Sanctuary. We knew that all of the adult males had left about fourteen days previously. The adult females left one week later, and we had four immature Ruby-throated Hummingbirds prior to the 25th of September. It was getting dark while we were sitting on our sun deck watching for the remaining immature hummers when Kathryn noticed a hummingbird with a dark gorget; we presumed that it was a late migrant male Ruby-throated Hummingbird. However, a few minutes later it flew down from its perch in a dogwood tree. I noticed a beautiful copper color on its back and immediately recognized it as a Rufous Hummingbird! I had enjoyed photographing this bird during its migration in Arizona, so I was familiar with it.

We immediately called our Louisville Bird Alert, and the following day we had interested "birders" arrive from various sections of Kentucky and the surrounding states.

I was anxious to photograph the Rufous but did not want to disturb it, so I photographed it from inside the house through glass, which was not satisfactory. As the bird gradually became familiar with us, I moved outside and started to use flash equipment, ultimately with two flash units four feet from a feeder. I installed a blue background cloth behind the feeder (to soften the background light) and was able to obtain flash pictures at about 1/30,000 of a second. This did not seem to disturb the bird. I recorded the times of feeding which initially were from 7:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. and later from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. However, on December 16, it fed until 5:45 p.m.

An interesting observation due to my high speed photography, was that the first primary was quite thin and formed a notch between the first and second primaries. This is not present in the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. And, in studying the high speed flash pictures of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Crawford H. Greenwalt's book (*Hummingbirds*, 1960) I noticed that his pictures of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird's primaries are almost identical to the primaries in my pictures of the Rufous. This may be the explanation for the distinct musical or mechanical sound of the Rufous' wing beat because the characteristic high-pitched sound of the Broad-tailed is described by Greenwalt as being due to the thin

first primary, producing a notch in the wing between the first and second primary.

The Rufous at Big Pond Sanctuary had strayed approximately 1,000 miles off course and stayed at our feeders from September 25 until December 16, 1989. In October, with increasingly colder weather accompanied by severe frosts, the insects began to diminish, and I was concerned about the bird's protein and fiber intake. I prepared a formula for our nectar feeders consisting of $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of Gevral, 1 cup of sugar and 3 cups of distilled water (I referred to this as the Gevral Formula). Initially, I mixed a solution consisting of $\frac{1}{4}$ Gevral Formula and $\frac{3}{4}$ sugar water (3 to 1 solution). I used this mixture until December 12 when I mixed a formula called "Nectar 3" from "Roudybush" in Davis, California. This was made by adding 3 oz. of "Nectar 3" powder to 240 cc. of warm water. As directed by "Roudybush" I sterilized freezer trays and put the formula in them.

On December 13, I filled two feeders with a new formula consisting of 1 part "Roudybush Nectar 3" and 3 parts Gevral Formula.

The feeder on our 6' x 9' front porch (which has a southeast exposure) was protected by panels of plywood on two sides. The feeder on our back sun deck was placed in an enclosed box protruding from our bedroom window so I could record the frequency of the Rufous' visits to it. I hung two thermometers and three outdoor light fixtures in the box; the lights were painted black. I inserted branches on which the bird could perch. On the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of December the outside temperatures were, respectively, 15°F, 10°F, and 7°F. But inside the box the temperatures ranged from 36°F to 46°F. On the front porch the nectar froze until late in the day when the sun warmed the solution.

Finally the temperature dropped to -15°F on December 15th. On December 16th the temperature was -10°F and the hummingbird was closely observed from 9:00 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. This was the latest it had ever fed, and during this day it consumed 18 gms. of nectar, approximately 5.6 times its body weight assuming 3.2 gms. as the average body weight of the male adult Rufous Hummingbird. It did not reappear on December 17, 1989.

In conclusion, it can only be conjectured as to its final fate. Since we did not know where it roosted, we could not look for it adequately in the dense undergrowth, but we tried without success. We concluded that it may have gone into a torpid state from which it never recovered or, since it had such a feeding frenzy on December 16th, it may have decided to move on to a warmer climate. If it did so it would not have survived the weather in our southern states because the flowers had frozen and the feeders had been removed.

There remain more questions than answers about over-wintering hummingbirds. Should we even try to help them survive? Should we trap or mist net them and transport them to an aviary or a warmer climate? Should we keep them in a basement or an inside room? If so, when should we release them? Or should they be collected for students and professors of Ornithology to study?

After much soul-searching, Kathryn and I decided that since the Rufous seemed to be strong, vigorous and active, we would leave it alone and if we had had a mild winter, we definitely believe it would have survived.

— HERBERT L. CLAY, JR., 434 Mallard Creek Road, Louisville, KY 40207.

CINNAMON TEAL AT BOWLING GREEN

On the late afternoon of 23 April 1989, I was on my way home from birding at the transient lakes near Woodburn, Warren County, when I stopped along US-31W just south of Bowling Green to observe a group of waterfowl on a small pond on the Western Kentucky University Farm. Among a group of about a dozen Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), I observed a male Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) feeding along the margin of the pond. The bird appeared to be paired with a female teal, presumed to be a Blue-winged based on the size of its bill and general coloration and feather patterns. The two birds remained in close proximity to one another during the entire hour or more that I observed them, and the drake repeatedly drove male Blue-winged's away from the female.

The male Cinnamon Teal was identical in all respects to the species as depicted in field guides. Its entire body plumage was a bright rufous-red except for the feathers of the back, which were a mottled brown, buff and black. The vent was black, and when the bird flapped its wings, whitish underwing linings and the "teal" blue patch on the upperside of the wings were obvious. The legs were dull yellowish with darker feet, and the bill was rather long and blackish. Characteristic of males of this species, the eye was bright red. The Cinnamon Teal appeared fairly wary, and there was no indication of feather wear or an abnormal level of tameness, both clues to the possibility of the bird having originated in captivity. Several photographs were obtained through a Questar telescope showing all field marks except the red eye. Duplicates of these have been deposited with Anne L. Stamm, Seasonal Reports editor for *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Soon after discovering the bird, I made a call to Dr. Blaine Ferrell who was able to see the male teal before sunset, and Don Parker observed the bird at the same pond on the 24th. Later trips made by others to see the bird were apparently unsuccessful.

This represents the third Kentucky record for the Cinnamon Teal. The other records were from Campbell County on 20 March 1951 (Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, p. 184) and Fulton County on 30 April 1985 (KW 61:43, 1985).

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW ON SURREY HILLS FARM

On the morning of 17 May 1989, I was birding on my family's farm in northeastern Jefferson County when I found a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). The bird was first seen when I inadvertently frightened it from the ground near the edge of a large hayfield. As luck would have it, the sparrow alighted in the top of a small tree in a shrubby fenceline less than thirty feet away from me where I was able to study it through 9x35 binoculars in excellent light.

During the time of observation, all field marks characteristic of a Clay-colored Sparrow were noted including its long, forked tail and boldly-marked face pattern. The bird superficially resembled a Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), but was overall more of a buff-brown in tone than the rufous-brown of a Chippy. The crown was a medium brown with a light median stripe and light supercilium. Surrounding and behind the eye was a roughly triangular patch of brown surrounded by lighter color. Below

the light malar area was a well-defined, dark streak. The middle of the nape, back and wings were a medium brown with streaks of darker color and buff. The sides of the nape were distinctly gray. The wings were marked with two light but distinct wingbars on the greater and median primary coverts. The bill was brownish with a suffusion of yellow on the mandible; the legs were flesh-colored. The underparts were generally a light gray but graded into a wash of buff on the breast and whitish belly. On several occasions, a sharp but rather quiet flight note was given, somewhat intermediate between that of a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) and a Chipping Sparrow.

After a couple of minutes, the sparrow flew off and returned to the ground to feed amidst a fairly heavy cover of grass. After cautiously pursuing it, I was able to flush the bird back into a shrub in the fenceline where I confirmed the above noted field marks. When the sparrow dropped into the hayfield again, I retreated and called several members of the Beckham Bird Club. Within three-quarters of an hour Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr. and Don Parker arrived and after approximately fifteen minutes we successfully relocated the bird in the same field. Upon flushing, the sparrow returned to the same fenceline where it posed patiently in less than optimal (but sufficient) light for viewing, enabling us to study all field marks through a Questar telescope.

During this latter observation, I was able to obtain several photographs through the telescope that turned out quite well given the poor lighting. Color prints of the bird clearly showing most field marks noted have been deposited with Anne L. Stamm, Seasonal Reports editor for *The Kentucky Warbler*, and represent the first photographic documentation of the Clay-colored Sparrow in Kentucky. Prior to this observation, the species had been reported from the state only once, near Lexington on 7 May 1978 (KW 54:47, 1978).

— BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS

MANY THANKS!

The membership of the Kentucky Ornithological Society expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay for their outstanding contribution to the 1990 spring meeting. The success of the weekend was assured by their superb hospitality both in birding opportunities at Big Pond Sanctuary and a delicious luncheon served at their home.

the Kentucky Warbler

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THE COVER

We thank Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., for the excellent photograph of the Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) nest taken at the Peabody Martwick Surface Mine, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky on 26 May 1989 (See, Field Notes).

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT M. MENGEL, 1921-1990

Robert M. Mengel was born on 19 August 1921 at Glenview, Kentucky, and died 15 January 1990 in Lawrence, Kansas, at the age of 68. No one since the time of John James Audubon has had as great an impact on Kentucky Ornithology as Bob Mengel. It was he who produced the first definitive work on birds from the state with *The Birds of Kentucky* in 1965 (American Ornithological Union's Ornithological Monograph No. 3). Not only was it a great contribution for the state's ornithology, but the work was of such high quality that this treatise has since become a model for state bird books.

Bob was the nearest thing I ever had to a brother. A few years older than I, he became my father's protege in birds. The story of his association with my family in his early days (and my even earlier ones) was related magnificently by Bob (known to all of us then as "Bobby") in his memoriam to my father, and I direct you to that article for the full story (1971, *The Auk* 88: 88-96). But my own recollections of those early days are dim, inasmuch as I was at a very young age. I came to know Bob much better in our associations through the American Ornithologists' Union in later years.

After attending secondary schools in Louisville and in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, Bob was drafted and served in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1942 to 1946, a year and a half of which he spent overseas (I remember vividly his recounting of his adventures while stationed in the Middle East in Arabia, Egypt and Libya). Following the service, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 1947 at Cornell University, and obtained his Master of Arts degree in 1950 and his Doctor of Philosophy in 1958 at the University of Michigan. In 1953, he became a University Research Associate at the University of Kansas, and he taught as an Instructor and Lecturer in Zoology at Kansas until 1967. From 1967 to the time of his death, he was Curator-in-charge of Ornithology at the Museum of Natural History at Kansas, as well as Associate Professor (then Professor) in Systematics and Ecology.

Between 1947 and 1958, Bob was married to Jane Strahan, who helped him considerably during his trips in Kentucky gathering data for the Kentucky book. This marriage ended in divorce, but he was later married to Marion Jenkinson (1963 to the present). Marion is at Kansas and is also an excellent ornithologist in her own right; currently she is Treasurer of the A.O.U.

Bob was a multi-talented person. Perhaps his greatest talent, and one shared by few indeed, was his ability as a bird artist. He was one of the very best in the ornithological world. Although he had numerous paintings published as well as displayed at most of the bird art shows, he was probably best known for his illustrations in Ralph Palmer's *Handbook of North American Birds* series (Yale University Press, 1962, and volumes published since then to the present). I presently have several of his paintings hanging on my walls, including probably his first serious one of a Peregrine Falcon with a captured Blue-winged Teal, perched on the lone dead tree left on a small island in the Ohio River just offshore from Glenview (the island is now gone, but some of you may recall its existence better than 40 years ago).

Bob was also superb with the pen. In addition to the Kentucky book,

he published over 100 papers in scientific journals. He was editor of several journals and publication series, the most notable of which were *The Auk* from 1963-1967 and the Monograph Series (mentioned earlier) from 1970 to 1974. He was also never at a loss for words. He could be sharp and caustic if he felt such criticism was deserved, but he was never unfair; however, I know many an author who cringed when he learned that Bob was reviewing his book.

But the thing I remember most about Bob Mengel was his wit. He had a terrific sense of humor and was as quick with an appropriate retort and as clever with words as anyone I ever knew. Sitting around in a group and listening to Bob Mengel, my father, and several of their cronies going at it during one of the off-hours at an A.O.U. or Wilson Society meeting was one of the great pleasures I can recall in my younger days. In some of those sessions, I had been literally rolling on the floor with laughter.

Bob's passing marks one of the saddest times for Ornithology. I know of no one who will ever be able to do the things for Ornithology, especially for Kentucky, that he did. Bob Mengel will be sorely missed by everyone.

Burt L. Monroe, Jr.
Department of Biology
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky 40292

THE SPRING SEASON, 1990

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

This spring was unusual weather-wise. March was warmer than usual. From March 1-15 the temperature averaged 13° above normal. On March 10 the temperature hit 79° and set a record at Paducah; a temperature of 80° at Louisville on March 14 also broke a record. At Louisville the month averaged 6.1° above normal. Precipitation averaged 1.95 inches below normal.

April was cool for the most part except for the last week in the month. The first 15 days at Louisville averaged 6° below normal and for the month averaged 1.1° below normal. Precipitation for the month averaged 0.65 inches below normal.

May was unusually wet all over the state; the rainfall at Louisville was 11.57 inches for the month and was the highest ever for the month of May averaging 7.42 inches above normal. The temperature averaged 1.2° below normal.

Abbreviations: BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; KDFWR = Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; PKSM = Peabody Ken Surface Mine, Ohio County; RCSS = Rowan County Sphagnum Swamp; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County. Chaney and McElroy Lakes are the transient lakes south of Bowling Green, Warren County.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons returned in late March

with two birds first sighted at Lake Pewee on March 28 (JH) and five at BPS on March 31 (KC); fifteen birds had arrived on Kentucky Lake above the dam on April 1, at least one was still present on May 7 (BPB), and numbers were recorded at CRL (ten on April 14; 48 in one small group and five additional 100 yards away for a total of 53 on April 6; two on May 13; six on April 20; and one on May 22 - FB). Pied-billed Grebes were not numerous this year and were first noticed at McElroy Lake on March 9 (DCC); six was the maximum number reported there on March 24 (BPB). Birds were heard calling "as as if territorial" at three places on SWMA (BPB), and a bird was displaying on Caperton's Swamp, Louisville on May 19 (BM); nesting at both locations may occur if water levels remain high. Although Horned Grebes were fairly widespread they were not as numerous as last year; five were first observed at McElroy Lake, Warren County on March 3 (BPB) where they peaked with 10-12 on March 17 (BPB); five were seen on the Ohio River at Louisville on March 6 (LR), one at Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County on March 7-8 (LMc), three on CRL on March 12, three on April 20 (FB), and one was as late as May 1 on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa (BPB). Numbers of Double-crested Cormorants continued to improve in some areas with maxima of 60+ to 75+ on Lake Barkley (JB, PB, and BPB, respectively), more than 100 on Mississippi River at Chalk Bluff, Hickman County (BPB) on May 6, and seven to 20 elsewhere (LR, K. Prather, BPB et al.); 16 were present at MCFH on April 14 (FB).

Bitterns through Herons — Single Least Bitterns were heard at RCSS on May 23 and 25 (FB). Birds seldom recorded included two American Bitterns at Hardy Slough on April 1 (LR) and one bird there on April 21 (BPB, LR). Only small numbers of Great Blue Herons were reported this spring with 15 as the largest number observed flying in the vicinity of Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley (JB, PB); up to ten birds were at MCFH between April 6 and May 23 (FB). Three nests were observed on the 20th Century portion of PKSM; two nests were being brooded by adults, and the third contained two large young on May 20 (BPB, LR, C. Rebar). Four Great Egrets were first observed at Reelfoot NWR on April 3 and 12 in that general vicinity on May 3 (BPB, Landon McKinney); three were at MCFH on April 20 (FB). A Snowy Egret was also seen at Reelfoot NWR on May 3 (same observers as above); three were seen on BWMA (Mitchell Lake) on May 6 (BPB, DP) and one on a slough nearby on May 7 (BPB, DP, J. T. Erwin). Little Blue Herons were first noted at BWMA and Swan Lake WMA on May 6 (BPB, DP), and about 15 on BWMA on May 7 (same observers plus J. T. Erwin). Cattle Egrets were not as numerous this spring as last year. Four birds were first noticed in flight near SWMA on April 29 (BPB), one along the Ohio River in Boone County on May 5 (JCam, KCam); a flock of 22 on a jetty at Kentucky Dam Village State Park with a large flock of gulls on May 6 (BPB, DP); about 25 each at both BWMA and Swan Lake WMA the following day (BPB, DP, J. T. Erwin); and a flock of 22 on Rose Island Road, Prospect, Jefferson County (BM, MM, S. Brown, L. McGrath). Green-backed Herons were scarce, only a few reported; two have been present at BPS from April 8-May 30 (KC), up to 18 at MCFH from April 6-May 30 (FB), and several at RCSS from May 6-23 (FB); singles at two other locations. Black-crowned Night-Herons returned to Shippingport Island by March 16 where 19 were observed (LR); one along the Ohio River, Steel Bottom Road, Gallatin County on March 25 (JCam, KCam); four at Marydale Lake, Boone County on April 9 (KCam); up to five at MCFH from April 13-

May 18 (FB); and an adult first noted at Chaney Lake on April 22 (BPB, DE). One adult was at a small lake across the street from our house on April 17, but three were there three days later (S, FS). Numbers began arriving by May 1 when 161 were counted at Shippingport Island (LR; and the birds had returned to Lake Barkley rookery by May 4-7 where they were numerous in the trees (BPB). In Louisville during May, the Ohio River was high on the Falls of the Ohio, causing the herons to disburse. Three Yellow-crowned Night Herons were present on the River Road at Louisville on March 17 and four near Brownsboro Road, Louisville on April 9 (KC); a pair was constructing a nest in a large sycamore tree in Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve, Louisville, on April 25 (BM).

Waterfowl — A Tundra Swan was present near the Grassy Pond Unit of Sloughs WMA in western Henderson County on March 11 (LR, BPB, DE). Two Mute Swans were observed on ponds adjacent to U.S. 62 four miles west of Georgetown, Scott County on March 21 and April 4 (FK). Small numbers of Canada Geese were found at a few places where they are seldom seen: one at Long Run County Park, Jefferson County on April 1 (S, FS), two at a small pond in Oldham County on May 6, and three at Williams Lake in the Ten Broeck subdivision, northeast Jefferson County (S, FS). No others were reported. Snow Geese peaked at McElroy Lake on March 3 with 19 birds (three white morphs and 16 blue morphs — BPB). A Ross' Goose was present with the Snow Geese from late February-March 3 (BPB et al.). Fifteen Wood Ducks noted at Chaney Lake on March 10 (BPB); five near Cool Springs-Wysox Lake, Ohio County on March 17 (KC); 20 birds at Hematite Lake area on April 13-15 (JB, PB); and four to six at BPS most of the period (KC). The variety of waterfowl was good in northern Kentucky, but numbers were low (LMc). It was a good migration of Green-winged Teal at the transient lakes this year: 50+ birds arrived at McElroy Lake by March 10 and 20 at Chaney Lake, a similar number at McElroy Lake on March 24 but 90 at Chaney Lake, and 75 were still present at McElroy on March 31 and 50 at Chaney (BPB). Also, some 50+ birds were present in western Henderson County on March 11 and 30 at Reelfoot NWR, Fulton County on April 3 (BPB). Black Ducks were scarce. Twenty to 25 Northern Pintails were present during early March at McElroy Lake and in western Henderson County on March 11 (BPB). Blue-winged Teal were not numerous but were widespread from March 22 (the earliest at Lake Pewee — JH) to April 10 (three birds) on a pond in Spencer County (DC) with the largest concentration of 75-100 birds at Reelfoot NWR on April 3 (BPB). Northern Shovelers reached McElroy Lake in late February with 12 there on March 3, numbers built up by March 17, but peaked at 85 on March 24 (BPB); six were present at Lentz's Pond, Louisville on March 9 (LR); four at Lake Pewee, Hopkins County from March 28-April 5 (JH); six on Cool Springs-Wysox Lake on March 17 (KC); about 12 on Lake Barkley on April 1 above the dam; and about 50 at Reelfoot NWR on April 3, three birds lingering there until May 7 (BPB). About 50 Gadwalls were seen at McElroy Lake on March 3 with a peak of 50-75 there on March 10 (BPB); about 50 noted in western Henderson County on March 11 (BPB); and 35 at Reelfoot NWR on April 3 with 15 still present there on May 7 (BPB). Twenty-five to 50 American Widgeon were present at McElroy Lake from March 3 to March 10 with 30 still present on March 24 (BPB) and 38 at Chaney Lake on the latter date. Five to six birds were also observed on the Cool Springs-Wysox Lake on March 17 (KC). Canvasbacks were few: seven at McElroy Lake on March 3 (BPB), two at Lake Pewee on March 5 (JH), and three on

Lake Barkley above the dam on April 7 (BPB). A nice group of 60 Red-heads was found on McElroy Lake on March 3 (BPB). Fair numbers of Ring-necked Ducks were found with 107 on March 5 on Lake Pewee (JH), 125 at McElroy Lake on March 10 and 80 at Chaney Lake on March 24 (BPB), and two on the lake at Long Run County Park, Jefferson County, on April 1 (S). Five Greater Scaups appeared at Lake Pewee on March 28, and two still there on April 5 (JH); also reported at McElroy Lake on March 15 (no number given — DCC). Lesser Scaup were fairly widespread: twenty-three birds reached Lake Pewee on March 5 (JH); 75 on March 14 at CRL (FB); peaked at McElroy Lake with 225 on March 24 (BPB); about 250 on Lake Barkley above the dam and several hundred at Kentucky Lake above the dam on April 1 (BPB); and 102 at Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County, with a flock of 37 at a smaller lake nearby (LMc). Two Oldsquaws were recorded at McElroy Lake on March 17 and 18 (BPB et al.). A fair number of Buffleheads appeared at McElroy Lake with a peak of 40-50 on March 24 (BPB); 12 was the maximum at Lake Pewee on March 12 (JH); 30-40 birds were seen on Lake Barkley above the dam (BPB); and ten were present at CRL on March 12 (FB). Four Hooded Mergansers were seen on Lake Pewee on April 5 (JH) and present at McElroy (no number given — DCC). Three Common Mergansers were sighted at Kentucky Dam on April 13-15 (JB, PB). Red-breasted Mergansers were present from March 10-May 5, with several hundred on Lake Barkley above the dam on April 1, and small numbers (up to 12 on Kentucky Lake on May 1) were scattered about on the northern end of the lakes and on the Tennessee River through the first week of May (BPB); up to 15 were present on MCFH (FB). Highest concentration of Ruddy Ducks occurred at Lake Pewee with 58 on April 5 (JH); 45+ was the peak at McElroy Lake (BPB); and a few were present on MCFH from March 13-April 15 (FB).

Raptors — Eight Black Vultures with six Turkey Vultures were observed eating dead fish in a draining reservoir on Mayfair Avenue, Louisville on March 30 (LR). Turkey Vultures peaked at MCFH with 100 on March 12 and 53 on March 14 (FB). Ospreys arrived on time, and a pair was attending a nest at Bayou, Livingston County on April 8 (BPB) and observed again in late May (D. Yancy, *vide* BPB); two birds were picking up sticks flying to a nest in the Honker Lake LBL area on April 13-15 (JB, PB); one bird was noted flying over Hebron, Boone County on May 5 (KCam, JCam); and one or two birds were present at MCFH from April 6-May 4. Mississippi Kites were first seen at BWMA, Axe Lake, Ballard County, and Chalk Bluff on May 6 (BPB, DP) and again at BWMA on May 7 (no number given — BPB, DP, J. T. Erwin). Two Bald Eagle nests in Land Between the Lakes, and one at BWMA contained young in late May (Steve Bloemer with TVA and D. Yancy with KDFWR, respectively, *vide* BPB); an adult was observed as it brought food to the BWMA nest on May 6, another adult at Mitchell Lake, and an immature perched along the Ohio River, all at BWMA (BPB, DP). In addition a pair was seen at Lake #9, Fulton County on May 6 (BPB, DP). Northern Harriers were not as numerous this year as last; a total of 15 was counted in Ohio County near the Homestead Mine area on March 17 (KC), with four noted in another section of Ohio County on April 2 (KC). One to two birds were also noted in Breckinridge and Muhlenberg counties during early April (KC), and one observed near Dozier Lake, Hopkins County on March 5 (JH). Only small numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported. Three Rough-legged Hawks were still in southern Ohio County on March 17 (KC),

and one was in the same area as late as April 1 (KC). An immature and one sub-adult Golden Eagle were seen at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on March 3 (BPB, LR, DE, JB, PB); at least one was in the area as of April (no date — D. Brumley *vide* BPB). A total of 12 American Kestrels was found within a 17-mile drive of Falls of Rough, Grayson County (KC). An immature Merlin was turned in to the Louisville Zoo for rehabilitation in mid-March. An unaged Peregrine Falcon was noted flying near Double Arch, Powell County on May 13 (BPB) and another was reported in downtown Louisville in mid-May (C. Lindsay *vide* BPB).

Wild Turkey through Cranes — A Wild Turkey was seen at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 8 and two others on April 16 (JB, PB). Bobwhites were thought to have increased in Grayson County this spring (KC). There were three reports of a rare transient, the Virginia Rail: one flushed at SWMA on April 29 (BPB, DE), another at Mitchell Lake, BWMA on May 7 (BPB, DP, J. T. Erwin), and one in a small marsh in the Homestead Mine area, Ohio County on May 8 (KC). Twelve to 15 Soras were present at SWMA on April 21 (BPB, LR) and at least six there on April 29 (BPB, DE); one heard on the Peabody Homestead Surface Mine on April 28 (BPB, DE, KCam); and two in marshy area in Florence, Boone County on May 5 (JCam, KCam). Two Common Moorhens were observed at a marsh near Cool Springs-Wysox Lake on May 8 (KC), and at least one bird on marshy pond on Peabody Homestead Surface Mine (BPB, M. Bierly), both sightings in southern Ohio County. The American Coot migration was fairly good with 104 birds at Lake Pewee on March 5 (JH) and about 200 at McElroy Lake on March 3-18 (BPB); peaked at Lake Pewee on March 12 with 141 birds (JH) and at McElroy on March 24 with 500 birds (BPB); about 100 were still at SWMA on April 21 (BPB). There were no reports for the month of May. Sandhill Cranes were moving north in Kentucky the first week of March: a flock of 57 noted at McElroy Lake on March 3 (BPB); heard in MCNP on March 4 (JB, PB); a good movement on March 4 when flocks of 22, 30+, 45+ and 50 passed over eastern Grayson County (BPB, DE). The flock of 150 Sandhill Cranes on the ground at Cecilia, Hardin County in late February remained until early March (BPB); also, a flock of 17 birds was seen at the upper end of Big Beech Creek, Taylorsville Lake, Spencer County on March 19 (Kerry Prather).

Shorebirds — "Very little shorebird migration evident in Boone County, with little good habitat available during peak periods" (LMc). Little habitat available in the Louisville area this year. The Falls of the Ohio rockbed was covered with water for much of the period. Best localities appeared to be at the transient lakes and western Kentucky. A Lesser Golden-Plover arrived early — March 3 representing an early state date — at McElroy Lake (BPB) where they peaked on March 31 with 60-75 birds (BPB); 30 near Reelfoot NWR and 100-150 in lower Hickman Bottoms, Fulton County on April 3, smaller numbers scattered elsewhere. Semipalmated Plovers were reported from four locations with 20-25 as the highest count on May 6 at Lake #9, Fulton County (BPB, DP); birds were present at MCFH from May 20-30, with a peak of 28 on May 25 (FB). Only two to three Greater Yellowlegs were present at McElroy Lake in March, but 15 to 20 were at Chaney Lake on April 22 (BPB); 30+ in or near Reelfoot NWR on April 3 (BPB); about 20 in Ohio River bottoms near Bayou, Livingston County on April 8 (BPB); 35-50 on SWMA on April 21 and 10 still there on April 29 (BPB); and up to six at MCFH from April 13-May 25 (FB).

Lesser Yellowlegs arrived later than usual with four present at McElroy Lake on March 3 but 12-15 there by March 31 (BPB); 50+ in or near Reelfoot NWR on April 3 (BPB); five in a field near Honker Lake on April 13-15 (JB, PB); up to nine at MCFH from May 18-25 (FB); 35-50 on SWMA on April 21; and about 35 at Chaney Lake (BPB). Solitary Sandpipers peaked at 12+ at Chaney Lake on April 22 (BPB); three birds were at a marsh in southern Ohio County on May 8 (KC); and up to three at MCFH on May 18 and at RCSS from May 6-23 (FB). The only Willets reported were the two near the dam of Rough River Lake, Grayson County on April 27 (LMc). Spotted Sandpipers were first discovered on April 19 along the Green River, Mammoth Cave National Park, where the species was well distributed on gravel bars and exposed shorelines (BPB, R. Cicerello) and one was noted at Lake Pewee on April 23 (JH); these dates are much later than usual. Numbers peaked at MCFH with 13 on May 18 (FB). There were 100+ Semipalmated Sandpipers on the PHSM on May 20 (BPB, M. Bierly et al.); at MCFH, birds were present from May 4-30, with a peak of about 150 on May 20 (FB). Western Sandpipers were present at MCFH from May 4-30, with a peak of 15 on May 20 (FB). Least Sandpipers were reported in Warren (BPB) and Rowan (FB) counties, with the earliest bird at McElroy Lake on March 17 (BPB). Interesting records of the White-rumped Sandpiper included several in a flooded field north of Flaherty, Meade County in mid-May (RH, *fide* BPB) and one there on May 19 (BPB, RH); one present on PHSM in southern Ohio County on May 20 (BPB, M. Bierly et al.); and 4-6 birds at MCFH on May 28-30 (FB). There was a good flight of Pectorals at McElroy; they arrived on March 3 (7 birds), numbers increased with 100-150 on March 24 and a peak of 250-300 there on March 30 (BPB). Also, 20 in a field near Honker Lake on April 13-15 (JB, PB); 30 at Chaney on April 22 (BPB); six to eight at Mayfair Basins on May 13 (S, FS). Ten Baird's Sandpipers were present at MCFH on May 20, with lesser numbers until May 30 (FB). Dunlin were scarce: one bird at McElroy on March 31 (BPB), two at Chaney Lake on April 22 (BPB, DE), and two flocks of birds in breeding plumage at MCFH (seven on May 28, and 11 on May 30 — FB). A Short-billed Dowitcher was heard and seen well at SWMA on April 29 (BPB, DE). Common Snipes were present from March 10 to May 7 and reported from four counties: Fulton, Livingston, Oldham and Warren counties, with the greatest number — 35 — along the Ohio River near Bayou, Livingston County on April 8 (BPB). These records included a total of 78 birds (BPB, DP, J. T. Erwin, S, FS, DCC). Six American Woodcocks were heard calling and were seen displaying at Joe Creason Park, on March 5 (JB, PB); courtship flights noted in Crittenden, Grant County on March 18 (JCam, KCam); one bird first appeared on March 9, with two adults and two juveniles present on May 15 (FB); about four heard at BPS the first week of March (KC); and one heard "peenting" over a field in Leitchfield, Grayson County on the late date of May 8 (KC). Three Wilson's Phalaropes were present at MCFH on May 18 (FB).

Gulls — Two Laughing Gulls (adults in breeding plumage) were seen on Kentucky Lake at the Kentucky Dam Village Marina on May 6 (BPB, DP). A few Franklin Gulls were present: an adult with Bonaparte's Gulls was seen on April 8 at Calvert City (BPB); two at Kentucky Dam on April 13-15 (JB, PB); single adult on an island in Lake Barkley near Boyd's Landing on May 1 (BPB); an adult in breeding plumage at MCFH on May 4 (FB); and another on Kentucky Lake above the dam on May 6 and 8 (BPB, DP). The Bonaparte's Gull migration was quite

good, particularly in early April, and reported from at least six widely separated localities from March 18-May 9 (JCam, KCam, BPB, LMc, LR); up to 41 were reported at MCFH from March 18-May 4 (FB). Maxima numbers were about 1000 on the Tennessee River from below Kentucky Dam to below Calvert City and 300-500 on Lake Barkley above the dam, smaller numbers elsewhere. Ring-billed Gulls were found at six locations in low numbers except at Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley; it was unusual to see a total of 86 at the Mayfair Basins, Louisville on March 27 (LR); up to 30 were reported at MCFH and CRL from March 2-May 4 (FB). A third-winter Herring Gull was present at MCFH on March 23 (FB). The second- to third-year Lesser Black-backed Gull observed during the winter (or another individual) was present on Kentucky Lake above the dam on April 1 and observed again on Lake Barkley on April 7 (BPB). One of the first-year Great Black-backed Gulls was seen in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam on April 1, 7 and May 1 and again on Lake Barkley above the dam on May 8-9 (good photo on May 1 — BPB).

Terns — A few Caspian Terns were reported from April 1-first week of May, with the first (1 bird) noted on Lake Barkley on April 1 (BPB); two below McAlpine Dam, Louisville on April 11 (LR); one on a slough in farmland of western Henderson County on April 21 (BPB); and up to five on MCFH from April 13-May 4 (FB). Small numbers (one to five) of Forster's Terns were recorded April 1 to first week of May at McAlpine Dam (LR), scattered places on the west Kentucky lakes (BPB), and Cool Springs-Wysox Lake (BPB, DE, KCam); up to five were present at MCFH from April 13-May 4 (FB); and a group of seven Forster's Terns flying down the Ohio River at Westport, Oldham County on May 12 was followed a few minutes later by five Black Terns (BM, MM, S. Brown, L. McGrath). Two Black Terns were noted at MCFH on May 18 (FB).

Cuckoo through Woodpeckers — There were more reports of Black-billed Cuckoos than normal with the first heard at BPS on April 28 (KC), one at Madisonville, Hopkins County on April 29 (JH), and singles in Graves and Calloway counties on May 3 and 7, respectively (BPB, with DP and J. T. Erwin on the latter date). Also, two birds were heard and seen on the SWMA sloughs on April 29 (BPB, DE); first noted at Glasgow, Barren County on May 18 (RS) and on PHSM on May 20 (BPB, M. Bierly et al.). Two Chuck-wills-widows were heard at BPS on April 14 and still present throughout May (KC); two at Madisonville on April 23 (JH). Only two reports of the Whip-poor-will: first heard at Hanson, Hopkins County on April 16 (B. West *vide* JH) and four at BPS on May 1-30 (KC). Common Nighthawks appeared to be late in arriving and few in number. Chimney Swifts were first reported from Kentucky Dam (1 bird) on April 13-15 (JB, PB); numerous and flying low over Beargrass Creek, Seneca Park, Louisville on May 6 (S, FS). A single male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was the first arrival at BPS on April 8, but 12 were there by April 30 (KC). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was last observed at BPS on April 26 (KC); also observed at Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve, Jefferson County on April 29 (JB, PB). Young Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were calling from the nest east of Cumberland Falls, Whitley County on May 28 (BPB, LR, C. Rebar); both adults were observed foraging nearby. According to Steve Phillips of the U.S. Forest Service, four nests were active in late May.

Flycatchers through Nuthatches — Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared to

be late in arriving: one at MCFH on May 4 (FB), two separate birds on BWMA on May 6 (DP, BPB), and one at Joe Creason Park on May 14 (MS). At least two Alder Flycatchers were seen and heard on PHSM on May 20 (BPB, M. Bierly et al.). Several Willow Flycatchers were also observed at the same location and same date (same group as above). The Willow Flycatcher was also present in numbers near Petersburg, Boone County on May 28 (LMc), one at Elk Creek bridge, Hopkins County on May 18 and 30 (JH), and 2-3 at MCFH from May 4-25 (FB). Eastern Phoebe were first recorded at Green River Lake, Taylor County on March 4 (LR). There were few reports of the Great Crested Flycatcher with the first being at Brigadoon, Barren County on April 22 (RS), and one the following day in Hopkins County (JH). We believe the bird has been rather scarce this spring, although no one has made any such comments. Purple Martins appeared to be late in arriving and fewer were observed than usual; the species was still migrating on May 5 when small groups of four or five were seen along Old Brownsboro Road, northeast Jefferson County totaling at least 25+ birds, but they were gone the following day (S, FS). Fifteen males reached a martin complex in Leitchfield, Grayson County on April 1 (A. Wilson, KC). A male Tree Swallow was quite early at Crittenden, Grant County on March 10 (KCam, JCam); up to 350 birds were present at MCFH on April 6 (FB). One Bank Swallow was early at Lake Barkley on April 7 (BPB). Cliff Swallows were numerous on the Rough River on the Grayson/Breckinridge county line on May 4 (KC). Barn Swallows do not seem to be as numerous this spring. A good number — 15-20 — of Fish Crows was seen along Obion Creek at Ky. 123 in Hickman County on April 2 (BPB, Bill Hendricks); about six there, one bird at Three Ponds, Hickman County, and a pair at Bayou de Chien at Ky. 239 along the Fulton-Hickman County line, all on April 3 (BPB). A Common Raven was calling near the summit of Big Black Mountain, Harlan County on May 27 (BBC). A single Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed at MCNP (JB, PB) and in east Louisville (DN) on April 21 and 25, respectively. Greater numbers of Brown Creepers were noted at CRL and RCSS in winter 1990 than in 1989 (FB), with up to five on several occasions from March 15-30 (FB).

Wrens through Shrikes — House Wrens arrived on time and first recorded at Mayfair Basins, Louisville on April 13 (LR), and only one Bewick's Wren was reported at Grand Rivers, Livingston County on May 1 (BPB). Single Winter Wrens were present at Madisonville, Hopkins County on April 9 (JH) and at MCNP on April 18 (BPB). A few Sedge Wrens were seen in May: one in Northern LBL on May 1 (BPB), one heard at Reelfoot NWR on May 3 (BPB), and a pair observed in rural Meade County north of Flaherty on May 19 (R. Healy, BPB). A single Marsh Wren was seen at SWMA on April 21 and 29 (BPB). Greater numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were recorded in eastern Kentucky this winter than in 1989, with a peak of ten on March 16 at High Bank Picnic Area, CRL (FB). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported from seven locations: BPS (KC), Hopkins County (JH), MCNP (JB, PB), Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve (JB, PB), Natural Bridge State Park, Powell County (JB, PB), southwest Jefferson County (DS), and Rough River State Park, Grayson County (KOS). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen on Mayfair Avenue, northern Jefferson County on March 20, and this tied our earliest record for the species (LR); two also observed at BPS on March 30 (KC); all other records in April. Four Veeries were seen at the Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve on May 5 (LMc). Thrushes

were not present in large numbers. The few Hermit Thrushes reported were present from April 8 to 28. The Wood Thrush continues to be scarce in some areas particularly Louisville (S) and at surrounding areas of BPS (KC). Arrival dates were later than usual, with the first reported being on April 13-15 at LBL (JB, PB) and then Madisonville on April 21 (JH). The Gray Catbird has been present in lower numbers in the Louisville area for some time and is now in lower numbers in a section of Grayson County (KC). The same is true for the Brown Thrasher in sections of Louisville (S), but thought to be increasing in numbers around the Rough River area (KC). There was a fair migration of Water Pipits with a peak of 75-100 at McElroy Lake on March 24 (BPB); two birds at Camp Ernst, Boone County on March 24; and four at Rough River airstrip, Grayson County on April 28 (LMc). There was a good movement of Cedar Waxwings in late March and in April: a flock of 146+ was found near Brownsboro, Oldham County on March 25 (S, FS); a large flock in a yard in the Highlands, Louisville (MSu) on April 14, and another flock of 20 in the Valley Station area on April 19 (DS); 30 or more at BPS (KC); and small numbers still present in late April at Madisonville (JH) and at Beargrass Nature Preserve on April 29 (JB, PB). There were several good sightings of the Loggerhead Shrike in Scott, Harrison and Franklin counties, central Kentucky (FK); other records were in Breckinridge and Grayson counties (KC).

Vireos through Warblers — Two territorial male Bell's Vireos were seen on May 20 on the PHSM where the birds nested last season (BPB, M. Bierly et al.); also a singing male was found in a new location north of the above birds (same date and observers as above). Two Philadelphia Vireos were reported on May 15-16 in east Louisville (DN). Warbler migration seemed to lack numbers of the various species, and there were no early dates with the exception of one species, the Northern Parula. One observer said the "Warbler migration was somewhat concentrated, with the best numbers seen on May 5"; another thought the best migration days were May 4 and 12. Blue-winged Warblers were first recorded in Barren County on April 20 (RS) and Golden-winged on April 27 at Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve (JB, PB). Three males of the latter species were seen at once on May 5 in LBL and eight in one day on May 7 (BPB, and with DP and J. T. Erwin on the latter date); and one in Caperton Swamp, Louisville on May 20 (BM). The Orange-crowned Warbler, usually rare in spring, was seen on three occasions: one near Kentucky Lake-Scenic Drive on April 13-15, (JB, PB); one at Bernheim Forest on April 22 (BBC, BPB); and one at Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve, Louisville on April 25 (BM). The Northern Parula was "everywhere" near Honker and Hematite Lake in LBL on April 13-15 (JB, PB); three to four at MCNP or April 21-22 (JB, PB); and one was present in northeast Louisville or March 28, establishing an early state date (DN). A Yellow Warbler was noted in northeast Louisville as early as April 10 (DN). Yellow-rumped Warblers began moving in from the south on March 13 at RCSS (FB) and March 16 at BPS where there were some 20 birds by April 15 (KC); they were "everywhere" at Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville on April 25 (JB, PB) and last observed at Madisonville on May 7 (JH) where on some days in April they were very common. Pine Warblers were first noted at BPS (KC) and at a pine plantation in Madisonville on March 11 (JH); six were seen in pine trees at Honker Lake on April 13-15 (JB, PB). The Blackpoll Warbler sightings at Joe Creason Park and Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve on May 13 were "numerous" (BBC), but the species was

only recorded on May 14 in the Madisonville area (JH). Black-and-white Warblers (one to four) were seen in MCNP from April 8-22 (JB, PB); other sightings occurred during late April at BPS (KC), Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve and Natural Bridge State Park (JB, PB). Single Swainson's Warblers were heard singing at two locations in eastern Calloway County on May 7 (BPB, DP, J. T. Erwin), and at least two were seen at Bad Branch State Nature Preserve, Letcher County on May 27 (BBC). Many species of warblers arrived on April 21 and 22 ahead of warm fronts, including the Ovenbird and Worm-eating Warblers (RS). There were only two reports for the Northern Waterthrush: Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve on April 29 (JB, PB) and in Hopkins County on May 7 (JH), no number given in either case. Louisiana Waterthrushes were fairly widespread, but numbers were small with the earliest arrival on April 2 along overflow of Cool Springs-Wysox Lake (A. Wilson *vide* KC); one was noted at MCFH on April 6 (FB). Kentucky Warblers arrived at Brigadoon on April 22 (RS). A Mourning Warbler was seen earlier than usual on May 3 at New Concord, Calloway County (BPB). Common Yellowthroats were late in arriving and were first observed in Barren County on April 20 (RS) and in Hopkins County on April 23 (JH); between 5 and 11 individuals daily were recorded at RCSS from May 6-25 (FB). There were only two reports of the Wilson's Warbler: first observed in LBL on May 5 (BPB, C. Rebar) and one on the University of Louisville Campus on May 18 (BM).

Tanagers through Sparrows — There was nothing impressive about the tanager migration, with several sightings around April 21-28, but no large numbers, etc. There was a good migration of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in northern Kentucky this spring with many birds at feeding stations in early May (LMc). There was a fairly early record of a bird at a feeder in Middletown, Jefferson County on March 24 (R. Klapheke *vide* BPB), others sighted on April 15 at BPS (KC), MNCP on April 21 (JB, PB), Falls of Rough on April 28 (KOS), Madisonville on three dates from April 24 to May 13 (JH), many in the Louisville area, and Natural Bridge State Park on April 28 (JB, PB). Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Barren, Hopkins and Grayson counties (RS, JH, KOS, KC). There were no large numbers of Indigo Buntings reported other than the 15 sighted on May 30 in Madisonville (JH). A flock of 15 Tree Sparrows was present in western Henderson County on March 11 (BPB); and one lingered at Louisville until May 5 (BBC). A Vesper Sparrow was seen at McElroy Lake on March 24 and a flock of eight at Chaney Lake with several smaller groups in Warren and Simpson counties on March 31 (BPB); also observed in lower Hickman Bottoms of Fulton County on April 3 (BPB); and three birds at East Bend and two at Camp Ernst, Boone County on April 7 (LMc). A Lark Sparrow was seen in eastern Calloway County on May 4 and 7 (BPB, with DP and J. T. Erwin on latter date). Henslow's Sparrows were singing at two locations in Breckinridge County on April 29 and May 15 (BPB); also present at the 1989 nesting area on the PKSM on May 20 (BPB, M. Bierly et al.). Interesting, too, were the three Henslow's observed on the Hopewell Church Road on May 4 (KC) and one bird on Hwy. #108 E. on April 28 (DC *vide* KC). At least 30 to 40 Grasshopper Sparrows were counted in southern Ohio County (no date given but probably in May—HC *vide* KC). Twelve Song Sparrows were counted at a few places in Hopkins County on May 30 (JH). Swamp Sparrows were present at RCSS from March 9-May 15, with a peak of 52 on March 13 (FB). There was a fair movement of White-throated Sparrows on April

25 when the birds were reported as "everywhere" in Joe Creason Park and Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve (JB, PB). The species was last recorded at Madisonville on May 20 (JH). Dark-eyed Juncos were last reported in Rowan County on April 20 (FB).

Bobolinks through Finches — There was a good movement of Bobolinks during early May with up to 125 in eastern Calloway County on May 3 (BPB); a flock of 141 west of Hebron, Boone County on May 6 (Carmen Schulte *vide* LMc); and a male, near Caneyville, Grayson County, as late as May 31 (HC *vide* KC). A flock of 1000 Red-winged Blackbirds with a few Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen on Covered Bridge Road, Oldham County on March 11 (S, FS). Fifty to 100 Rusty Blackbirds was the peak count in the vicinity of McElroy Lake on March 10 (BPB); numbers still present on March 15 (DCC). Brewer's Blackbirds peaked at 45-50 in the vicinity of McElroy Lake on March 24 (BPB), but a more impressive group of 75 and probably 100 were seen in Hickman County at Hailwell on April 3 (BPB, Bill Hendricks). Another noteworthy record was that of a female Yellow-headed Blackbird, just south of Bowling Green, Warren County on March 10 (BPB, R. Cicerello, Bob English, Camille Crenshaw). Both Orchard and Northern Orioles do not seem as numerous as usual. Purple Finches were not as numerous this spring; the peak count was only 20 at BPS on March 30 (KC); 14 birds were seen in Eva Bandman Park, Louisville on April 18 (LR); and smaller numbers at the woods at Hematite Lake in LBL (JB, PB), Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve (JB, PB), and two Louisville yards (DS, JB). Pine Siskins lingered throughout the winter in some areas, but populations increased in April when 40-50 were present at Valley Station feeders on April 19 (DS); 50 or more at BPS on April 24-30 (KC); 20-30 at Woodland Nature Center in LBL on May 4 (BPB); and last observed at BPS on May 15 (KC). The surprise at a Surrey Hills feeder was an adult Pine Siskin feeding a full grown fledgling on May 29-30 (BPB).

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KENTUCKY BALD EAGLE COUNT FOR 1990

JAMES DURELL, DAVID YANCY

Target dates for the 1990 eagle census were January 11 or 12, within a time frame of January 4-18. Weather was unusually mild, with little or no ice. The state was thoroughly censused, there was severe weather up north, and a new record population (322 eagles) was reported.

Immature Bald Eagles increased from 75 to 99 but the percentage decreased from 36% to 33%. Mature birds increased from 129 to 195. Eagles on the north bank of the Ohio and west bank of the Mississippi were not counted.

Barlow Bottoms near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, was partially censused, but had a low report. Mayfield and Obion Creek bottoms were not censused.

The Ballard Waterfowl Area gained 34 eagles, Land Between the Lakes gained 58 and Lake Cumberland gained 23. The Mississippi River lost 8, Dale Hollow lost 18 and Cave Run Lake lost 7.

Table I summarizes the 1990 census, with some earlier high records. Eagles within 15 miles of similar birds previously reported were not added to the totals.

TABLE I — Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 4-18, 1990, with some earlier high counts.

| ROUTE | 1990 | | | Earlier records | |
|---|------|------|-------|-----------------|------|
| | Ad. | Imm. | Total | High | Year |
| Land Between the Lakes | 65 | 47 | 112 | 67 | 1987 |
| Blood River — S. Calloway | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Mississippi River | 40 | 3 | 43 | 72 | 1984 |
| Ohio R., Wickliffe-Carrsville | 30 | 17 | 49* | 89 | 1986 |
| Ohio R., Carrsville-Owensboro | 9 | 3 | 13† | 13 | 1989 |
| Ohio R., Meade Co., Louisville | 2 | | 2 | 5 | 1986 |
| Ohio R., Louisville-Markland Dam | | | | 1 | 1987 |
| Ohio River, Boone Co. to Boyd | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Kentucky R., north | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Bernheim Forest | | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1989 |
| Ohio Co., near Green River | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Rough River Lake | | | 0 | | |
| Nolin R. Lake | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1989 |
| Barren R. Lake | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1989 |
| Green R. Lake | 4 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 1986 |
| Dale Hollow, Kentucky portion | 11 | 6 | 20† | 38 | 1989 |
| Lake Cumberland | 18 | 8 | 26 | 14? | 1983 |
| Cumberland R., dam to state line | 4 | | 4 | 8 | 1986 |
| Cave Run Lake | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 1989 |
| Grayson Lake | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1989 |
| Laurel Lake | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 1985 |
| Martin's Fork | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 1988 |
| Dewey Lake | | | 1† | | |
| Total Bald Eagles | 195 | 99 | 301 | | |
| Golden Eagles | | | 7 | | |
| Unidentified eagles, Ballard Co. WA | | | 14 | | |

* Ballard Co. Wildlife Area reported 25 adult and 17 juvenile Bald Eagles and 14 unidentified eagles. There were also 2 Bald Eagles, age unknown, on the Ohio.

† Includes Bald Eagles, age unknown.

7 Golden Eagles: 1 immature on Mississippi, 4 adults Ballard Co. WA, 1 adult above Cincinnati, 1 adult Green River Lake.

Eighty-four observers in 39 parties, reported 394 other raptors. Totals for the four preceding years are in parenthesis: Black Vulture 69 (23); Turkey Vulture 18 (10); Osprey 1; Northern Harrier 12 (19); Sharp-shinned Hawk 4 (7); Coopers Hawk 4 (5); Goshawk 1 (Yellowbank); Red-shouldered Hawk 4 (12); Red-tailed Hawk 112 (306); Rough-legged Hawk 2 (10); American Kestrel 141 (369); Merlin 1 (upper Ohio); Peregrine Falcon 3 (not verified by a biologist); unknown hawks 22; Common Barn Owl 0 (1).

Assistance of 185 participants in 86 teams is gratefully acknowledged. They represented the Kentucky Ornithological Society, federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, TVA, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Kentucky Dept. of Parks, Audubon Society, Bernheim Forest, Owensboro Area Museum and Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources.

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FIELD NOTES

A NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL SPECIMEN FROM KENTUCKY

Among several frozen specimens obtained from Gene Boaz, a raptor rehabilitator from Paducah, was a Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). The owl was captured in Pryorsburg, Graves County on 26 November 1988, given to Boaz the same day, and died in a cage that night.

I prepared the owl as a study skin (GEW 5852). It was an adult-plumaged male (testes 4x1) weighing only 60.0 g, somewhat emaciated, with no fat. The longest primaries on each wing are broken. I suspect this occurred during the overnight in the cage. The remainder of the plumage is in good condition. I detected no molt. Sequential wear of the undamaged primaries suggests the owl was hatched in 1988 (Evans and Rosenfield, pp. 209-214 in Nero et al. eds. 1987. Biology and conservation of northern forest owls: symposium proceedings. U.S.D.A. General Tech. Rpt. RM-142). The stomach was empty. Emaciation is supported by the fact that the average weight of male Saw-whet Owls is considerably heavier at 74.9g (Earhart and Johnson. 1970. Condor 72:251-264.)

The recent "Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky" (Monroe, Stamm, Palmer-Ball. 1988.) describes the species as an "extremely rare spring, fall and winter visitant," and lists 13 records. These 13 records are concentrated in northern Kentucky extending west to Land Between the Lakes, which is a short distance from Graves County. I suspect this secretive species is far more regular in Kentucky than currently realized. Perhaps playing recordings of their calls would test this idea.

It is a pleasure to donate the specimen (now UL 6269) to the growing collections at the University of Louisville, which are under the care of Burt L. Monroe, Jr. I thank my mother, Ethel Woolfenden, of Paducah for establishing the contact with Gene Boaz.

— GLEN E. WOOLFENDEN, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620.

NOTES ON BREEDING BIRDS OF THE RECLAIMED SURFACE MINES IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

During the winter of 1988-89, a number of noteworthy bird records were reported from the extensive, reclaimed surface mines of Ohio and

Muhlenberg counties (see KW 65:31-38, 1989). These observations helped fuel enthusiasm for investigating the possibility that the reclaimed mines held good potential for unique breeding records, as well. During late May and June 1989, as part of the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas Project, we devoted approximately a week of field time to making a preliminary investigation of the breeding avifauna of the reclaimed surface mines in a portion of the Shawnee Hills (Western Coalfield). In addition, several subsequent visits were made later in the year to follow up on earlier observations. Efforts were focused on Ohio and Muhlenberg counties where earlier observations suggested the probability of nesting of Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls.

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*): On November 25, Don Parker and Palmer-Ball observed three Great Blue Heron nests in a mature deciduous tree situated on the shore of a small impoundment on the Peabody 20th Century Mine in southern Ohio County. Subsequent conversation with K.O.S. member Tony Eaden brought to light the fact that he had observed these same nests as early as 1987, and that successful nesting had occurred there at least once. During the November 1989 observation, single birds were seen perched on two of the three nests. This record represents an eastward extension of the nesting range of the Great Blue Heron in Kentucky of approximately 50 miles and is the first documentation of a rookery composed of only a few pairs of this species in the state.

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*): The Northern Harrier or Marsh Hawk was reported nesting in the "Barrens" of Kentucky by Audubon in the early 1800s and vague reference was made to nesting in Nelson County in 1927 (Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, p. 218). Otherwise, the harrier has been reported only occasionally during summer, and without further evidence of nesting, from a few localities scattered across the western two-thirds of the state.

On the afternoon of May 25, we visited the reclaimed Peabody Sinclair Mine in eastern Muhlenberg County and began the task of studying the movements of several pairs of harriers. We focused our attention on a broad expanse of mixed grasses and forbs surrounded by gentle slopes where both a pair of Northern Harriers and a pair of Short-eared Owls seemed to have territories. Interestingly, both individuals of the pair of Harriers were brown in plumage and somewhat difficult to tell apart, but paired behavior was evident and we assumed the male to be a sub-adult. Although we were able to watch the pair of harriers for an extended period that afternoon, it was not until the morning of May 26 that Barron felt confident he had identified a spot in the tall grasses where repeated visits by the birds made probability of a nest site worthy of further investigation. We approached the site by foot, and when we were within 50 feet of it a harrier bolted from the ground. We walked up to the spot to find a loose, rather bulky mat of dead grasses and weed stalks built on the ground upon which lay two pale blue-green eggs. The nest was situated about halfway down a gentle, south-facing slope dominated by fescue (*Festuca* sp.) and yellow sweet-clover (*Melilotus officinalis*). After taking several photographs, we retreated and did not bother the site again. On June 8, Palmer-Ball returned to the nest site only to find one egg crushed and lying in the nest and the other lying intact in the grass off to the side. It is unknown whether or not our action caused abandonment or predation of the nest, but it was felt as though visiting the nest could have contributed to its failure. Another factor that may have been involved was the age of the

pair. Since the male was still in brown plumage, it was probably only a year old and, thus inexperience may have also contributed to the demise of the nest. It is unknown whether or not this is the first documentation of a sub-adult bird attempting to nest.

Nearly within sight of the hunting range of this pair of harriers was the apparent home range of a second pair. The gray-plumaged male was observed engaging in courtship flight on several occasions and the pair seemed to work over one broad valley, indicating a probable nest site there. Having already found an active nest in the vicinity, we did not investigate the actions of this pair further, fearing that discovery of a nest might lead to predation or abandonment. In mid-October, Palmer-Ball revisited the general area of both pairs' territories and found no less than seven juvenile birds foraging within sight of one another. Several of the young birds were observed hunting together and engaging in casual aerial battles, suggesting they might be brood mates.

Just to the east, across the Green River in southwestern Ohio County, we discovered a second Northern Harrier nest later on the afternoon of May 26 on a reclaimed portion of the Peabody Ken Mine. This pair of adult birds was observed for nearly three quarters of an hour before we were able to determine the probable location of a nest when the gray-plumaged male dropped prey into the grass. Closer inspection of the spot turned up five downy young scattered about in a flattened area in the grasses of perhaps three square feet. The young varied in size from fist size to about half that. The nest site was on a gentle east-facing slope approximately one third down from the crest of a rise to the floor of a broad valley. All that remained of the "nest" was a flattened mat of dead grass and weed stalks. While we photographed the young, the female repeatedly dove overhead, calling continuously. After only a few minutes, we left the nest site and remained nearby long enough to see an adult return to it with prey. On July 16, Palmer-Ball returned to this site but was unable to relocate it in the tall grasses.

The presence of young in this nest at the same time that eggs were apparently being laid in the Muhlenberg County nest illustrated the length of the breeding season in this area. It also might be further evidence of "inexperience" on the part of the young Muhlenberg County pair in establishing a territory and initiating nesting activity.

About two miles to the southeast, on the recently reclaimed Peabody Homestead Mine south of Cool Springs, nesting evidence was apparent, but again, with a confirmed nest site identified in the area, we felt that further investigation for another was not warranted. Evidence of nesting in this area (the general area where a Short-eared Owl nest had been located in May by Stamm and Clay, KW 65:75-76, 1989) included persistent courtship flight by a gray-plumaged male. It might be worth mentioning that the opportunity to observe this spectacular behavior makes any trip to the area well worth the effort during late spring and summer. Males were observed in courtship flight from mid-May to mid-June, but the behavior probably was in evidence both before and after this period. The vertical dives and abrupt flips that sometimes included a complete somersault were certainly one of the most impressive avian displays we had ever witnessed. On August 3, we watched a gray-plumaged male attending a chestnut-bellied juvenile in this area as the two coursed back and forth in search of prey. On one occasion, the male appeared to capture prey and then waited on the ground until the juvenile came and took the prey from it. For all practical purposes, this seemed to confirm nesting

in this area, as well.

Sightings of harriers during the summer 1989 season were not limited to these areas. A pair of adult birds was observed foraging over a reclaimed surface mine in eastern McLean County near the community of Island on June 15 by Palmer-Ball. On one occasion, with both birds on the wing, the male approached the female from above and dropped prey to her, which she caught before it hit the ground. No nest site was discovered, and the leisure behavior of the birds, e.g. sitting on posts for long periods during approximately an hour of observation, prompted the speculation that perhaps the pair had experienced nesting failure and were subsequently passing time afterwards or perhaps prior to initiating a new nesting effort.

In northern Todd County near the community of Epleys, some 30 miles south of the major reclaimed surface mine areas of the Shawnee Hills, Palmer-Ball observed a gray-plumaged male defending a large field of fescue from other raptors and Turkey Vultures on June 7. Although no further evidence of nesting could be observed, the defensive behavior of the male seemed to indicate that some sort of nesting effort might be under way.

In addition to these observations of probable and confirmed nesting activity, harriers were noted on mines in two other areas. On May 26, we observed a gray-plumaged male foraging over the reclaimed Peabody Martwick Mine along the Green River north of U.S. 62 in eastern Muhlenberg County. Another pair of adult Northern Harriers was observed by Palmer-Ball on a reclaimed surface mine in northern Ohio County approximately 4.0 miles northeast of Beaver Dam on June 29. Further evidence of nesting at these sites was not obtained.

Based on these observations, it seems clear that the Northern Harrier is not a rare nesting species of these extensive, grassy reclaimed surface mines. Moreover, it would seem probable that a substantial nesting population has been present for an undetermined number of years. In June 1982, we observed a female harrier harassing Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) over a reclaimed mine in Muhlenberg County (KW 58:82, 1982). At the time, the possibility of nesting was considered, but further investigation was not undertaken. From conversations we had with at least two employees of the Peabody Coal Company who frequent the mines all year long, it was clear that harriers were considered to be a normal summer resident of the area. It is interesting to suppose that if a nesting population of Northern Harriers has been present on the surface mines for some years, birds like the one in Todd County might actually represent spillover of excess birds into peripheral areas. Anyone who has visited these areas and witnessed the spectacular numbers of raptors to be found there certainly could not expect for the reclaimed surface mines to harbor any *more* harriers and other raptors than they appear to sustain at present! It would seem logical that if a successful nesting population has been established on the mines, some birds should be expanding into peripheral areas.

From our observations, it would seem that visitation of nest sites may be detrimental to nesting success. Moreover, it would appear that any closely associated pair of Northern Harriers observed from mid-May through July could be regarded as attempting to nest. It might be that the "safest" method of confirming nesting would be to visit potential areas in July when recently-fledged young are still being attended by parents.

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*): During early May 1989, Richard Healy found at least two Common Moorhens on a small, cattail-

ringed pond on the Peabody Homestead Mine, approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Cool Springs in southern Ohio County. Subsequent visits to this site by us and others yielded observations of up to four moorhens there. Palmer-Ball searched part of the pond's margin for a nest several times during late May and June without success. On July 16, Palmer-Ball, Don Parker and Diane Ebel visited the pond and found a pair of adult moorhens attending four half-grown young along the edge of the cattails. The young were well-feathered and were beginning to acquire red color on their bills, but they probably could not fly. When approached, the entire family group disappeared into the thick cattails. On subsequent visits, none of the moorhens could be located, suggesting that perhaps something happened to the young, but this theory is unconfirmed. This represents only the third confirmed nesting of Common Moorhen in the state.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*): Following the initial discovery of nesting Short-eared Owls in Ohio County (Stamm and Clay, *KW* 65:75-76, 1989), we searched similar habitat across the Green River in Muhlenberg County. Palmer-Ball had observed a pair of seemingly territorial owls feeding over an extensive, grassy area on the reclaimed Peabody Sinclair Mine on May 18. On the evening of May 25, we returned to this site and watched the pair of owls for an extended period as they foraged over an area of open grassland of perhaps 50-100 acres in extent. After approximately forty-five minutes of observation, Barron became convinced that he had determined the location of a spot where adults had dropped into the tall grasses several times with prey. We approached the site on foot and flushed one of the adults from the ground where six downy young were found scattered over a couple of square feet in a slight depression of bare ground amid several clumps of grass. As expected, size of the young varied substantially, the largest being approximately six inches long with buffy down and open eyes to the smallest, which was only about three inches long with lighter down and closed eyes. The nest site was situated on a gentle, west-facing slope, approximately one-third down the slope from its crest and above a broad flat area below. The vegetation was dominated by fescue, orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) and bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). After several minutes of observation, we left the young and allowed the adults to come back to the nest site. On the only subsequent visit to this site on June 14, Palmer-Ball was not able to relocate any young, but the adult male flushed from the ground nearby and quietly flew away. As the young are quick to move about in the grasses surrounding a nest site as they grow, it must be presumed that relocating them would be difficult, and that at least some of these young were successful in fledging.

On June 14, during a visit to the Peabody Homestead Mine in southern Ohio County, Palmer-Ball encountered an intact family group of at least four full-grown young and an adult or two perched on one of the gravel roads running through the reclaimed mine. Upon initial approach by car, five owls were observed perched together on the gravel road, and on two occasions, the adult male (obvious because of its whitish wing-linings and light underparts) flew directly towards the car in harassment, veering only at the last second and passing overhead. It was unclear how many of the remaining five birds were young, but it was presumed that perhaps all or all but one were juveniles. No down was observed still being retained on any portion of their bodies, but at least four were obviously different from adults due to their buffy foreheads (in sharp contrast to the lighter foreheads of adults). Individuals within the group darted and dove playfully

at one another, and repeatedly landed together. The entire group was approached to within approximately a hundred feet by car before they flew and alighted nearby in a weedy area. Upon approach by foot, first the adult male rose from the grass and began barking in defense, then the young rose up and actually flew towards the observer, apparently curious about the strange intruder.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*): Away from urban settings, this largely nocturnal aerialist is not well-known as a breeding species in Kentucky. Although we were not able to confirm nesting of nighthawks on the reclaimed surface mines, the presence of pairs and males engaged in territorial displays in late May and June suggested nesting on rocky substrates exposed amidst the open grasses in both Muhlenberg and Ohio counties.

BELL'S VIREO (*Vireo bellii*): On May 18, Palmer-Ball discovered a small colony of Bell's Vireos on the Peabody Homestead Mine just south of Cool Springs in southern Ohio County. At least two territorial males were found singing on a gentle southeast-facing slope, planted in black locusts (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Upon closer study of one of the males, it was found to be assisting a mate in nest construction. The nearly completed nest was placed approximately two and one-half feet above the ground on the south side of an eight-foot tall black locust. On May 20, the nest contained four eggs and on June 14 it contained four fully feathered young ready to fledge. On July 16, the empty but intact nest was collected for preservation.

On May 26, we located a territorial pair of Bell's Vireos and their nest containing four eggs (see cover) in similar habitat on the reclaimed Peabody Martwick Mine just north of US 62 and west of the Green River in eastern Muhlenberg County. The nest site was not revisited.

Also, on May 26, we located another colony of singing male Bell's Vireos in southwestern Ohio County just across the Green River from the Paradise Steam Plant on the Peabody Ken Mine. Although no nests were located, three to five territorial males were noted in a vast area probably in excess of a hundred acres of scattered black locusts and other small saplings. It is likely that these birds are part of a more substantial nesting population in the immediate vicinity.

These observations represent an extension of the known nesting range of the Bell's Vireo in Kentucky by more than 50 miles to the east-southeast of the population Barron discovered in Union County in 1988 (KW 64:65, 1988). In areas where early stages of successional woody vegetation (especially young black locusts and other shrubby legumes) dominate large portions of the reclaimed surface mines, it is probable that Bell's Vireos find the habitat optimal for nesting. If a substantial nesting population of this species has not already developed in this portion of the state, it would appear that the future of the Bell's Vireo there certainly looks bright.

HENSLow'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*): On May 26, we discovered a colony of singing Henslow's Sparrows on an extensive, gently sloping hillside of tall grasses. The field was located on a reclaimed portion of the Peabody Ken Mine near the Hopewell Cemetery in southwestern Ohio County and covered at least 50 acres. This field was dominated by a thick growth of waist-high switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) used as a seed source for revegetation efforts. In contrast to the much sparser growth of grasses prevalent on most portions of the reclaimed mines, the grasses

here were thick and somewhat matted, making the habitat character of this field quite different. This site was revisited by Palmer-Ball, Don Parker and Diane Ebel on July 16, when males were still singing and an agitated adult bird carrying food was approached to within approximately 30 feet, all but confirming breeding at this site. No less than five territorial males were present during the summer, although the presence of more was probable. A single Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) was heard singing in the field on our initial visit but could not be relocated on subsequent visits.

This represents the first summer record for Henslow's Sparrow in Ohio County and one of only a handful for the western half of the state. Although the presence of large tracts of idle grassland in this area might lead one to think that the mines must harbor good numbers of this species, it appears that over most of the territory the growth of grasses is not thick enough to be preferred as nesting habitat by Henslow's Sparrows. The sparsely distributed clumps of fescue and other grasses dominant over most of the mines are much more suited to the habitat preferences of the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviarum*), a species that must reach its maximum breeding density over large portions of these reclaimed mines.

This summary of noteworthy breeding observations serves to provide a basis for further investigation of the nesting birds of the extensive, reclaimed surface mines in the Shawnee Hills section of western Kentucky. Included herein are only the most noteworthy observations made during the nesting season of 1989. Numerous nesting records of other species were obtained during this field work that have been incorporated into the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

It is unknown to what extent the species included in this summary actually nest in western Kentucky, nor is it clear how long these birds have been present as nesting species on the reclaimed surface mines. It does seem apparent that many noteworthy ornithological happenings have previously gone undetected since large scale habitat alteration, largely as a result of surface mining activities, began in the mid-1900s. The systematic replacement of large tracts of deciduous forest with grassland and early successful vegetation has probably introduced a permanent change in the avifauna of this region of Kentucky. In essence, these artificially-created openings simulate the once widespread prairies of the Pennyroyal that were distributed in a wide band across southern Kentucky just south of the Shawnee Hills. Today, the prairies have been converted completely to agricultural land, and the relatively undisturbed grasslands of the reclaimed mines just to the north are apparently sufficient to attract birds like the Northern Harrier to nest in the state after a hiatus of many years.

Other species like the Bell's Vireo and Prairie Falcon may be invading these habitats for the first time. The latter species has recently been reported in Kentucky in winter (KW 65:14, 34-35, 78-79, 1989), and like many other raptors, was greatly reduced in numbers during the era of widespread DDT use in the 1950s and '60s. Following the end of this period, numbers of most raptors have rebounded. One of the results of this trend has been a well-pronounced increase in the number of records of the Prairie Falcon east of the Mississippi River in the 1970s and 1980s. Prior to the 1950s, when the Prairie Falcon was more numerous, most of the Shawnee Hills of Kentucky was vegetated in natural woodlands, and species of expansive, open ground like the Prairie Falcon were non-existent. It appears that as this species' population has rebounded and consequently expanded into new areas, this graceful predator now finds suitable habitat

in regions where formerly it was *never* before known due to the lack of appropriate habitat.

This habitat is also much more extensive than one might realize, involving large portions of more than a half-dozen western Kentucky counties. Based on reports from similar surface mined areas of southern Illinois and Indiana, the unusual breeding records described herein are quite similar to those of these adjacent states where nesting of Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, Bell's Vireos and other species have been observed for a number of years in these reclaimed habitats (James Campbell, pers. comm.). Hopefully, as more and more birders become aware of the interesting opportunities that are available in these areas, more information will be gained about the region's avifauna. We wish to thank the Peabody Coal Company for allowing us access to certain areas in order to conduct this field work.

— Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 407 Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601 and Alan Barron, 2460 Maciel Ln., Crescent City, CA 95531.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at Kenlake State Resort Park on 28-30 September 1990. Anyone planning to attend should make their reservations and room accommodations early. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact Lee McNeely, P. O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005. Members are also encouraged to bring a couple of slides for the photo-quiz session.

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. for the photograph of the western race Rufous-sided (Spotted) Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus [montanus]*) taken in Meade County (see Field Notes).

IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD P. JONES, 1927-1990

Howard Jones was an active member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society before I returned to Kentucky in 1961, so I am not acquainted with his earlier years. He was the Recording Secretary in 1958 and later served as Councillor, Vice-President, and President. Howard made literary contributions to our organization in the form of field notes and contributions to seasonal reports, nesting records, and mid-winter bird counts. He was the leader and compiler of both the Frankfort and Kleber Wildlife Management Area counts for many years through 1989 — even though he was seriously ill when the last count was made.

Whether he was studying birds, fishing along some quiet stream, or hiking through a wooded area, Howard enjoyed his hours and days in the field. He was a quiet, proficient field ornithologist and was sought after to lead field trips at our spring and fall meetings. We respected him not only for his expertise but also for his kindly personality and his willingness to help our organization in any way he could contribute. To me Howard typifies the type of individual who is the real backbone of successful ornithological organizations, and we will miss his friendly encouragement. He leaves his wife, Jean, and two sons, Joel and Jeff, who is also a K.O.S. member and has served as Councillor just as his father had served 30 years earlier.

— H. E. Shadowen, Dept. of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1990

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

June was warm and wet with heavy rain and wind storms, particularly on June 6 and 7, bringing down limbs and uprooting trees. In Louisville the temperature averaged out at 75.1 degrees, a plus 1.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation locally was 6.13 inches for the month of June, 2.53 inches above normal. This caused the rockbed at the Falls of the Ohio to be covered with water for much of the time and thus dispersed the birds. In July it was hot and humid, with the temperature averaging out at .09 degrees above normal. Precipitation throughout the state was below normal. In Louisville rainfall amounted to only 1.96 inches for the month of July, 2.14 inches below normal.

The reports this season contained much information on breeding. At least four or more individuals did Breeding Bird Atlas work, and a number of interesting records were obtained, particularly for the Bewick's Wren, Willow Flycatcher and Lark Sparrow. Bald Eagles fledged young, and all told it was an interesting season.

Abbreviations: BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; BBA = Breeding Bird Atlas; CRL = Cave Run Lake; CFH = Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; Reelfoot NWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County.

Loons through Bitterns — Quite unusual was finding two to three Common Loons on Dale Hollow Lake, Clinton County on June 30 (Richard Hannan *vide* BPB); a bird in breeding plumage on Mill Creek Lake at Tompkinsville, Monroe County on July 12 (BPB); and one immature (non-breeding plumage) on July 23, two on July 27, one on July 29 and two on July 31 at CRL near the dam (Al Surmont and Lewis Kornman have seen the same birds since mid-June — FB). Single Double-crested Cormorants were observed at Wysox-Cool Springs Lake, Ohio County on July 8 (KC) and along Kentucky Lake (Hwy 68) on July 10 (HCh). Four Least Bitterns were seen on June 27 in a swamp on the south side of Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County (CP).

Hérons — Great Blue Herons were widely scattered and several new rookeries were found: one probably in excess of 100 nests with young found along Elk Pond Creek off Pond River in western Muhlenberg County on June 15 (Richard Hannan, Jim Aldrich *vide* BPB); five plus nests with large young in cypress trees along Little Bayou De Chien south of Kentucky 94, Fulton County on June 8 (BPB); six plus nests in sycamore trees along Claylick Creek, Livingston/Crittenden County line on June 10; at least three nests, two with large young along Livingston Creek in Crittenden County about three and one-half miles southwest of Fredonia, Caldwell County on June 24 (BPB). Also, a new colony was found near New Concord, Calloway County (CP); and an adult with a juvenile bird was seen along the shore of upper Green River Lake, near Route 551 bridge, Adair County on July 10 (MS). One to two birds were also observed in each of Pulaski, Casey, Green, Grayson and Hopkins counties during July; most may have been post-breeding wanderers.

Few Great Egrets were seen on casual visits to Ballard County (CP), but five to seven were noted on the Peale Tract, BWMA on June 27 (CP). A few birds were seen in the Ohio River bottoms near Bayou, Livingston County on June 10 and July 15 (BPB); one at Mud Lake in Ohio River bottoms of Crittenden County, NE of Carrsville; 15 to 20 birds in a flooded field WSW of Hickman, Fulton County on June 14 (BPB); and 12 to 15 in flooded fields of Kentucky Bend, Fulton County (BPB). Fewer Little Blue Herons were reported this season than last year. Several adults were noted in fields next to a Mississippi River levee several miles WSW of Hickman, Fulton County on June 14 (BPB); an adult on a slough west of Berkley, Carlisle County on June 21 (BPB); 11 adults in a swamp on the south side of Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County on June 22 and eight there on June 27 (CP); 12 birds on the Peale Tract, BWMA on June 27 (CP); and an adult observed at Lentz's Pond, Louisville, Jefferson County on July 28 (MS) and on July 29 and 31 (BPB, L. McNeil) and also on July 31 by Stamms. A few birds were also observed in a flooded field in the Mayfield Creek bottom in Carlisle County SW of Lovelaceville on June 28 (BPB). Cattle Egret observations included: two adults on farm pond southwest of Bowling Green, Warren County on June 2 (BF); one in breeding plumage in field in rural area of Murray, Calloway County on June 18 (MM); a few birds near Blandville, Ballard County and in Carlisle County SW of Lovelaceville, both on June 28 (BPB); two birds leaving a field near Holland, Allen County on July 10 (BPB); nine birds in Ballard County, SE of Wickliffe near Mayfield Creek on July 28 (CP); and scattered sightings in Graves, Ballard, Calloway and Carlisle counties (CP). Most unusual was the *Tricolored Heron* at the Falls of the Ohio on June 19 (LR). A nest of the Green-backed Heron was found with five young in Adair County on June 13 (MS); probably nested at BPS, Grayson

County, where two birds were noted in June and two adults and two immatures in July (KC); also two to three at Wysox-Cool Springs Lake (KC), Lentz's Pond (LR), and Riverside Sanctuary, Louisville (LR). A surprisingly large concentration of 55 Green-backed Herons on July 29 was at Clark Hatchery, Rowan County (FB). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen in southwest Washington County on July 18 (RH). High water at the Falls of the Ohio kept the species from feeding there for much of the time. Three nests of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were found in Shady Lane Woods (U. of K. Farm), Fayette County, and in early July at least two of the nests had two almost fully fledged young (MF, JF); single birds were seen on two occasions along Little Bayou De Chien at Kentucky 94, Fulton County on June 8 (BPB), on the Falls of Ohio on June 19 (LR) and July 29 (BPB); and singles in Graves and Carlisle counties on June 7 and 22, respectively (CP). Two immature *White Ibis* were first seen on July 13 and photographed on July 19 by Sharon Blackwelder, U.S. Forest Service, on one of several waterfowl impoundments being constructed by the Forest Service along Beaver Creek, which feeds into upper CRL in Menifee County; this site is along KY 1274 east of Scranton not far from the Long Bow Recreation Area on CRL. The birds were not seen after July 19 (*vide* BPB).

Waterfowl — A Canada Goose was incubating at a farm pond near Burlington, Boone County on April 22 (LMc); broods of young were observed at East Bend, Boone County on May 5 (LMc); adults and immatures were seen at Wysox-Cool Springs Lake, too numerous to count — still hundreds at the end of the period (KC). Wood Ducks apparently had a good year. Five broods were observed in western Kentucky: one in LBL, one in Graves County near Elva, two at Mayfield Creek swamp, and one in BWMA, Peale Tract (CP); two broods at East Bend and one in Petersburg, both in Boone County (LMc); female with three young at Long Run County Park, Jefferson County on July 31 (S, FS) and 12 or more birds present at BPS (KC). Four Mallards capable of flight were seen at Lake Pewee on June 7 (JH), a female with four small young at Long Run County Park on July 31 (S, FS) and about 30 immatures there on the same day (S). Quite unusual was the sighting of three male Ring-necked Ducks on a pond in Muhlenberg County on July 2 (RH). A single Hooded Merganser was noted in a flooded backwater area just WSW of Hickman on July 14 (BPB).

Hawks — Black Vultures observed in western Kentucky during the period included five at a roost in Carlisle County on June 4 (CP), a pair in the Mississippi River bluff near Berkley, Carlisle County on June 21 (BPB) and 11 at the traditional roost at Bondurant, Fulton County on June 21 (CP). Pairs were noted at Berry, Pendleton County and at East Bend on June 5 and July 4, respectively (LMc). A few individuals were also seen in Hart, Barren, Allen and Monroe counties (BPB). A Turkey Vulture roost in Carlisle County held 37 birds when checked on June 4 (CP), but a total of 66 was there on July 29 (HCh). A few nests of the Osprey were found: three birds fledged from a nest on electric power line along Lake Barkley, near Empire (WB), one fledged from a nest on a channel marker light on Lake Barkley, near the Youth Station (bird banded, WB), and a pair had a large juvenile in the nest at Bayou, Livingston County on July 15 (BPB, LR), also observed by DY. Fair numbers of Mississippi Kites were present during June and July. One bird was seen in the vicinity of Murphy's Pond, Hickman County on June 4 (CP); at

least five birds (four adults and one first-year) along the Mississippi River WSW of Hickman on June 14 (BPB); at least 10 in loose flock about one and one-half miles north of Berkley on June 21 (BPB); two at BWMA on June 28 (CP); and 14 (most adults, 1-2 first-year birds) observed one and one-half miles SW of Blandville, Ballard County on June 28; at least three birds over the Mayfield Creek bottom about three miles WSW of Lovelaceville on the same date (BPB); 12 birds (11 adults, one first-year) were seen in northern Kentucky Bend, Fulton County on June 14 (BPB) and birds observed carrying food to a patch of bottomland forest near Watson Lake in Kentucky Bend on July 12 (Marc Evans, Bill Hendricks *vide* BPB); six birds in Ballard County, Mayfield Creek bottoms SE of Wickliffe on June 29 (CP) and two at BWMA on July 28 (CP). Three young Bald Eagles fledged from a nest at Fulton Bay in LBL (WB); and one bird fledged from a nest in the woods near Mammoth Furnace Bay (bird banded). The male bird was hatched in a nest in Tennessee in 1987 (WB). Two Bald Eagles were fledged from a nest at BWMA during the summer (DY). Interesting June and July records of the Northern Harrier included a pair in Hart County, near Cub Run on June 8 (KC); one in McLean County carrying food on June 26 (RH); a female in Ohio County off Hopewell Road in strip mining country on July 8 (KC, JB, PB, M. Bierly *et al.*); a male over Wysox-Cool Springs Road, Ohio County on July 8 (KC); and a female near Annetta, Grayson County on July 15 (AW, M. Wilson *vide* KC). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen in eastern Cumberland County, Russell County, north of Creelsboro, June 20 (MS) and Knox County, June 27 (MS); a subadult was noted as it perched in rural Allen County about two miles SSW of Fountain Run on July 11 (BPB). Fair numbers of Cooper's Hawks were reported as a result of BBA work. Evidence of breeding was noted by seeing birds carrying food, carrying prey, feeding young, or performing courtship flight in the following counties: Caldwell, western Lyon, Grayson and Metcalfe. Other sightings of one or two birds were in the counties of Allen, Christian, Barren (three locations), Hart (two locations), Monroe (two locations), and in Pendleton. Single unidentified accipiters were found in Adair, Green and Russell counties. The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one over the city of Murray on July 24 (HCh, Sally Leedom). An adult Red-tailed Hawk was on its nest near Big Bone, Boone County on March 31 and again on April 12 (LMc); four birds in Hart County on June 8 (KC); one to two birds in Nelson (KC, AW), Ohio (KC), Grayson and Simpson counties (KC, AW).

Wild Turkey through Coots — An adult Ruffed Grouse was noted at Pine Mountain State Park on June 24 (MS). A family group of Wild Turkeys was observed near New Hope Cemetery, southern Ohio County in late June (M. Bierly *vide* BPB); two birds flushed from woodlands several miles SE of Cedar Springs, Allen County on July 5 (BPB); eight birds in LBL on July 24 (CP); three young in Mayfield bottoms, Carlisle County on July 28 (CP); one young on the Peale Tract, July 28 (CP). During a breeding bird survey in early June a total of 29 Northern Bobwhites was tallied on the 25-mile stretch in Hardin and Nelson counties (KC, AW). Young birds were noted on June 13 in western Adair County (MS) and a male and female Northern Bobwhite, with seven recently hatched young, were seen in Pulaski County on July 12 (MS). A Common Moorhen was heard and seen in Mayfield bottoms on June 27 (CP). A single American Coot was still present along Kentucky 1282 in Reelfoot NWR, Fulton County on June 13 (BPB).

Shorebirds — A few spring migrants passed through in early June, and the first fall migrants returned later than usual, arriving by mid-July. Two Semipalmated Plovers were seen at CFH on June 1 (FB). Small numbers of Semipalmated Plovers and Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers were present at East Bend on July 30 (LMc). Killdeer were believed to have suffered from last winter's freeze in western Kentucky; at least numbers were down in the area (CP). On July 19, however 122 Killdeer were seen on three drained ponds at CFH (FB). At least eight Solitary Sandpipers were observed on a floodplain slough along the Ohio River north of Bayou, Livingston County on July 15 (BPB, LR); also noted at East Bend on July 30 (LMc). A Spotted Sandpiper was seen on the bank of the Cumberland River at Vicksburg, Livingston County on June 10 (BPB); a pair noted in a marshy area near Poverty, McLean County on June 20 and one there a week later may have been nesting birds (RH); two birds on the rockbed at Falls of the Ohio on July 4 (LR); and one on the Peale Tract on July 28 (CP). Twelve Semipalmated Sandpipers were at CFH on June 1 and 34 on June 4 (FB). Five White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at CFH on June 1 and eight on June 4 (FB). On June 1, four Baird's Sandpipers were at CFH (FB). A single Least Sandpiper was seen along the Ohio River near Bayou and six plus along the Ohio River near SWMA in western Henderson County, both on July 15 (BPB, LR). A few Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in the same areas as the Least Sandpipers on the same date (BPB, LR). An adult Stilt Sandpiper was seen on a slough near SWMA on July 15 and established an early state date by one day (BPB, LR). Two Common Snipe were late in departing and were still present on June 3 in Hardin County and provided a late state date (KC, AW).

Gulls and Terns — A Laughing Gull was seen in the vicinity of Mc-Alpine Dam, Louisville on June 28 (LR). One or two Ring-billed Gulls remained in the Kentucky Dam/Barkley Dam area through June and July (one was seen above Kentucky Dam on July 15 — BPB). The first-year Great Black-backed Gull at the dams in western Kentucky in May remained throughout the month of June and was observed on a buoy above Barkley Dam on July 15 (BPB, LR). Least Terns had a difficult time to nest during early June as a result of floods along the Mississippi River, and they attempted to nest on sandy agricultural land in Kentucky Bend. This resulted in nesting failures as farmers cultivated their fields. After the river dropped, birds began nesting on sandbars. According to Rochelle Menken, Missouri Conservation Department, at least three Kentucky sites were being used with 170 pairs present along Kentucky Bend, 40 pairs near Middle Bar, Hickman County, and fewer downstream from Island Number 1, Carlisle County (*vide* BPB); 11 adult birds were seen below Smithland Dam, Livingston County on July 15 (BPB, LR). A single Black Tern was observed at Flaherty, Meade County in late July (RH).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — A Black-billed Cuckoo was heard calling in Knox County on June 9 (MS); an adult was on a nest near Kentucky River about three miles east of Clay Ferry Bridge, northern Madison County on June 21 (MB *vide* BPB); another was heard calling from a pine plantation several miles west of Marion, Crittenden County on June 25 (BPB); and one was seen in Springfield, Washington County on July 18 (RH). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo probably nested at BPS since two birds were observed there during June and July (KC); an active nest was found in eastern Crittenden County, several miles south of Fredonia

on June 24 (BPB); and the species was somewhat scarce in northern Kentucky (LMc). Three fledgling Barred Owls were found at the Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve in early May (LMc). The only Chuck-will's-widows reported were the two present at BPS during the period (KC) and one in Hart County on June 10 (KC). Approximately 50 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were present during the period in a rural yard of Murray, where five feeders were available (WB); about 30 at the Woodland Nature Center in LBL (WB); 10 males and five females and immatures at BPS (KC); three or four birds at feeder in yard of Science Hill, Pulaski County during the period (JEL); nest near Middle Creek, Boone County on May 5, where two females seemingly battled over the nest, but later visits found no activity (LMc); and two females and two immatures noted on July 24 on property of Mr. and Mrs. Montelle Wilson, Leitchfield, Grayson County (*vide* KC). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from the following counties: Adair, Green, Laurel, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor (MS) and Jefferson (S, FS). The European Starlings appear to have driven off the Red-headed Woodpecker and the Red-bellied Woodpecker in a wooded area in Lexington, Fayette County (MF, JF). A Northern Flicker was feeding young in Leitchfield on a rather late date of July 24 (KC).

Flycatchers through Crows — Three nests of the Acadian Flycatcher were found in Boone County: one along Middle Creek on May 28 with incubation on June 8, a second nest at Middle Creek contained three eggs on June 8, and a nest over Lick Creek at East Bend held one young on July 4 (LMc); three birds were seen in Nelson County on June 3 (KC, AW); and 13 birds were recorded on 10 trips in different areas of Hopkins County during June (six of these were at Elk Creek — JH). A good number of Willow Flycatchers were reported and some were found in new areas for new county records: one in Nelson County on June 3 (KC); one along the Ohio River near Mayfair Reservoir, Louisville on June 8 (LR); one in Knox County on June 9 and 27 (MS); one heard and observed at Sonora, Hardin County on June 11 (RH); a territorial bird was heard in a willow bordered marsh along Kentucky 94 about five miles WNW of Fulton, for a new county record, and one of only a few for the Jackson Purchase (BPB); another territorial bird noted along the Cumberland River in western Lyon County across from Iuka on June 10 (BPB); one at Cool Springs, Grayson County on June 19 (RH); one singing near a pond at Hodgenville, LaRue County on June 11 (RH); one at Elk Creek bridge, Hopkins County on June 23 and in the same tree on July 25 (JH); and one east of Somerset in Pulaski County on July 8 (MS). Also, young were being fed out of the nest near Petersburg, Boone County on June 19 (LMc). A nest of the Eastern Phoebe with four eggs was found at the Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve on April 15, same number of eggs with one Brown-headed Cowbird on April 22, and young were in the nest on May 5 (LMc); another nest along Middle Creek held five eggs on April 19 (LMc). A fair number of Tree Swallows were present during June and early July. Several birds were along the Cumberland River at Iuka, and adult birds were at Pinckneyville, Livingston County on June 10 (BPB); one at Cimmeron marsh, Hopkins County, June 12 (JH); several birds were flying about the Hickman Ferry Landing, Fulton County on June 12 (BPB); a pair on a farm pond with dead trees SW of Fredonia, Caldwell County (BPB); probable nesting birds were noted at Mud Lake, north of Carrsville and on a slough near McKinley Island on the Ohio River, Crittenden County on June 26 and 27, respectively (BPB); also birds perched in dead trees on Nolin Lake, Hart County on July 9 (BPB). No Tree

Swallows were found at Long Run County Park, where they had nested in some previous years (S, FS). Adult Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen entering a cavity in a concrete/cinder block barn wall on June 5, just north of Russell Springs, Russell County (MS) and recently fledged young were noted in western Pulaski County on July 12 (MS). Three recently fledged young were being fed by adult in Knox County, July 12 (MS). Bank Swallows were again present at gravel pits near Belleview and Petersburg, Boone County (LMc); several birds were seen along the Ohio River at the old U.S. Lock and Dam Number 50 and at McKinley Island on June 26 and 27 (BPB). Cliff Swallows continue to expand their breeding range in Kentucky. Small groups were found nesting at three locations in Russell County and one in Taylor County — new county breeding records (MS). Other new county breeding records included a colony under the Kentucky 1855 bridge over Walnut Creek, Barren River Lake, Allen County, and a few birds present at the old US-31E bridge over Trammel Creek, southern Allen County on July 10 (BPB); and near a bridge that crosses into Hart County (HC). Good numbers were also found in the following counties: Adair, Casey (MS), Lyon, Trigg, Lyon/Livingston (BPB), Boone (LMc), Grayson (KC, RH). Also, a single bird was noted in Green County on June 12 (MS) and an immature in Pulaski County on July 22 where there are no known nests (JEl). A fair number of Fish Crows were present: four were seen at Obion Creek in the vicinity of Murphy's Pond, Hickman County on June 4 (CP); a pair noted along Mud Creek at Kentucky 94, Fulton County on June 13-14 (BPB); one heard along the Mississippi River levee, SW of Hickman on June 14 (BPB); nine birds observed near Mayfield bottoms, Carlisle County and six at BWMA on June 28 (CP). This year there seemed to be "a great increase in numbers away from the big rivers" (CP). Also, on June 28 a single bird was heard along Mayfield Creek near Blandville, Ballard County and another flying in northern Carlisle County WSW of Lovelaceville (BPB).

Wrens through Shrikes — On 10 trips in different parts of Hopkins County during June a total of 85 Carolina Wrens was tabulated (JH). It was encouraging that Bewick's Wrens were found in nine counties! Two singing birds were seen in Pendleton County on June 5 and another heard in Owen County on June 12 (LMc); family groups were found near Sherwood Shores on Kentucky Lake S of Kentucky Dam Village, Marshall County on June 12 (with three or four nearly grown young), just east of McGowan, Caldwell County on June 20 (with young unable to fly), one mile NW of Union Hill, Trigg County on June 22, and within several square miles in Lyon County on June 23 (three family groups of nearly full-grown young with parents), all by BPB; one bird observed in southern Washington County on July 5 (RH); an adult was feeding young inside a barn near Marcus, Pendleton County, on July 14 (LMc); another near Willisburg, Washington County on July 27 (RH); and one bird southwest of McBrayer, Anderson County on July 26 (RH). Also, singing birds were reported in Washington County during June and one heard just south of Lebanon in Marion County (FL, WK). Several singing House Wrens were heard in Fredonia on June 24 (BPB) and observed along the Ohio River at McKinley Island on June 27 and singing males heard in Tompkinsville, Monroe County on July 12 (BPB). Several additional singing birds were noted in Corbin, Knox County, on June 24 (MS). Eastern Bluebirds did very well in Hopkins County (JH), central (FL) and south-central Kentucky (MS). FK put up 24 bluebird boxes in Oldham County and of this number 20 boxes contained at least two broods each. Only 13 Wood Thrushes were

recorded on the 10 trips in Hopkins County (JH). The species has decreased in some sections of Jefferson County (S). Only eight Gray Catbirds were tabulated on the 10 June trips in Hopkins County (JH); numbers were very low in the Louisville area (S) and at BPS (KC). Cedar Waxwings were widespread during June 8-July 12: nest in Christian County, courtship observed in Allen and Christian counties, and recently fledged young barely able to fly were seen near Exie, Green County (BPB). Pairs were noted during the breeding season in the following counties: Barren, Carlisle, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves (BPB), Grayson, (KC), Hart, Hickman, Livingston, Marshall, Monroe and Trigg, while single birds were recorded in Caldwell and McCracken counties (BPB). Good numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from central Kentucky (JF, MF), south-central (MS), and western sections of the state (BPB). Interesting breeding records include the following: an adult bird feeding young near Clay Village, Shelby County on June 8 (MS), adult feeding young in Adair County on June 13 (MS), and fledged young observed in central Kentucky (no county listed — MF). Pairs were recorded north of Russell Springs, Russell County on June 5 and north of Cane Valley, Adair County on June 14 (MS). Single birds were also recorded in early to mid-June in the counties of Adair, Marion and Taylor (MS), while on July 8 one was seen near Short Creek and another on Hwy. 79 on July 19, both in Grayson County (KC). Four birds were also noted in Hopkins County (JH). Also, during BBA work in the Jackson Purchase and Pennyroyal regions shrikes were found on 45 of the 58 blocks surveyed with "confirmed nesting in many" (BPB).

Vireos through Warblers — A pair of Bell's Vireo with an unused nest was found about two miles SSE of Weston, northern Crittenden County on June 26 (BPB). On July 15 the nest contained one young vireo and one young cowbird (BPB, LR). This represents a new county breeding record for the species. Twenty-six White-eyed Vireos were counted on the ten June trips in Hopkins County (JH). Quite unusual was the finding of a Solitary Vireo at Pennyroyal State Forest, northwestern Christian County on June 19. The male was singing and when the observer squeaked, another (presumed to be the female) appeared, although no evidence of nesting was observed (BPB). On a later visit July 15, the male was still present, singing in trees nearby (BPB, LR). At least two singing male Solitary Vireos were recorded at Pine Mountain State Park, June 9 and 26, and another singing male was in Knox County at an elevation of about 1160 feet on June 27 (MS). During ten June trips in Hopkins County eight Yellow-throated Vireos were recorded (JH). Warbling Vireos were present in low numbers: "not very common in BBA region 7" (MS); singing birds were found in Green, Metcalfe and Rockcastle counties (MS); three birds in Nelson County on June 3 (KC, AW); only four on ten June trips in Hopkins County (JH); and none found in Seneca Park, Louisville where they formerly nested (S). Several family groups of the Blue-winged Warbler were seen in northern LBL, Lyon County on June 12 and fledged young and adults were seen carrying food in southern Trigg County along Dry Creek on June 22 (BPB). An unusually early nest of the Yellow Warbler was found, with the bird on the nest, north of Carrollton, Carroll County on April 27 (LMc). A male Yellow Warbler appeared to be territorial at Hickman Ferry Landing, Fulton County on June 13 and a bird carrying food was seen along Dry Creek in southern Trigg County on June 22 (BPB). The Yellow Warbler was found to be "very local" in central and western Kentucky during BBA work (BPB). Single singing

Northern Parulas were heard in Casey County on June 18 and in western Cumberland County on June 20 (MS). A single Black-throated Blue Warbler at McKinneysburg, Pendleton County on June 9 was late in departing (LMc). The Yellow-throated Warbler is no longer found in some sections in Hopkins County where it formerly was observed (JH); one bird heard singing along Hwy. 1069, Hopkins County on June 19 (JH); and an adult was seen carrying food south of Fountain Run, Monroe County on July 11 (BPB). Good numbers of Pine Warblers were reported, with some new county breeding or summer records. The birds were fairly numerous in planted pines in Pennyroyal State Forest, northern Christian County on June 19 and a female was noted feeding a fledgling in the same county NE of Crofton on June 18 (BPB). Other interesting records included: singing birds in Madisonville, Hopkins County on June 2, 26 and 27 (JH); juvenile male in song near Roseburg, Hart County on July 9 and another NW of Pilot Oak, Fulton County in early June, both new county summer records (BPB); single birds heard singing several miles WNW of Milburn, Carlisle County on June 7, also NE of Pryorsburg, Graves County on June 9 and the species was widespread in planted pines in northern LBL, Lyon County on June 12 (BPB). A noteworthy record was established when a singing Pine Warbler was heard in western Adair County on June 13 for a new county summer record (MS). Also, two singing birds were observed at Pine Grove, Casey County (FL, WK). As usual, Pine Warblers were fairly common in appropriate habitat in the Cumberland plateau counties which were visited during the period (MS). Cerulean Warblers have declined in recent years and reports were few. A singing bird was heard in extreme southeastern Adair County on June 19 (MS); at least two singing males and female carrying food noted in northern LBL near Fulton Bay, Lyon County on June 12 (BPB); a pair and probably full-grown young near Dryden Estates E of Lake Barkley in southern Lyon County on June 23, and a male and juvenile bird were seen near Concord Church, southern Allen County on July 10 (BPB); and two female individuals at separate locations, plus a singing male, in Knox County on June 27 (MS). BBA work gives further evidence that the Cerulean Warbler is now very local and quite rare in central and western Kentucky. A male Black-and-white Warbler was evidently off territory when it was seen feeding in a hedge row, Wayne County, southeast of Lake Cumberland on July 19 (MS). Two interesting records of the Prothonotary Warbler were received: birds heard singing at McKinneysburg on the Licking River, Pendleton County on June 9 (LMc); and at least two singing males in Adair County along the Green River where it is crossed by Route 206 on June 21 (MS). A good number of Worm-eating Warblers were found in the following counties: singing birds in Adair (two locations), Christian (two locations), Lyon, Laurel and Russell; fledged young with parents in Caldwell, Crittenden, Lyon and Trigg. Recently fledged Ovenbirds were seen in northern Christian County on June 19, and singing birds were noted in Caldwell and Trigg counties on June 19 and June 22, respectively (BPB). Two nests of the Louisiana Waterthrush were found: one with young in western Lyon County on June 10 and one with young on tributary to Butler Creek, about one and one-half miles SW of Corley Hill, Crittenden County, June 25 (BPB). Also, two birds were observed at Lock Mary, Hopkins County on June 20 (JH); and one flushed at Pine Knob, Grayson County, near a creek, July 25 (KC). Seventeen Kentucky Warblers were recorded on the ten June trips in various sections of Hopkins County, most common south of Clear Creek (JH). Five birds were seen in Nelson County on June 3

(KC, AW); and a family group of nearly-fledged young noted near Sulphur Lick, northern Monroe County on July 7 (BPB). The Common Yellowthroat is apparently doing well in Hopkins County because 79 birds were counted on ten June trips (JH). Young Hooded Warblers unable to fly were seen about three miles SE of Cedar Springs, Allen County on July 5 (BPB). A few interesting records of singing Hooded Warblers were found in Christian, Hart and Trigg counties June 18-22, where the species is less common than in eastern Kentucky (BPB). An agitated pair was also observed in southern Lyon County, east of Lake Barkley on June 23, and only two singing males were found in one place in northern LBL, Lyon County, June 12 (BPB). On June 3 in Hardin County one Yellow-breasted Chat was seen, but 16 were noted in Nelson County (KC, AW). Although the chat has disappeared from some areas in Hopkins County, it is doing well in others (JH).

Tanagers through Sparrows — The only mention of Summer Tanagers was the 20 birds recorded on the ten June trips taken in Hopkins County (JH). An interesting find was the adult Scarlet Tanager feeding young in a nest at Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, Boone County on June 14 (LMc). Five Scarlet Tanagers were present during June in Hopkins County (JH). The Blue Grosbeak continues to expand its summer range in the state and was found at three locations in Pendleton County: a pair near Marcus on June 5 and 9, singing males at Marcus July 14, and at McKinneysburg on the same date (LMc). Other sightings included six birds at six locations in Hopkins County (JH), single birds in Nelson and Ohio counties on June 3 and July 8, respectively (KC *et al.*) and birds still singing in rural Murray, Calloway County on July 29 (MM). Indigo Buntings were still very common as "roadside dwellers" and 124 birds were recorded on ten June trips in Hopkins County (JH). Dickcissels were common on the PHSM area in southern Ohio County during the period with perhaps 50 observed (KC), while only two or three pairs were noted at Masterson Station Park, Fayette County on June 2 (MF, JF); several observed near Napoleon, Gallatin County on June 2 (LMc); others south of Glencoe, Owen County on June 4, and at Greater Cincinnati Airport on June 16, Boone County (LMc). Two different adult Grasshopper Sparrows were seen feeding young plus others singing on strip-mined areas in Laurel County, south east of London on June 26 (MS). Although present throughout the summer in more typical habitat in BBA region 7, it was never abundant (MS). There were a few interesting records of Henslow's Sparrows this summer: one bird singing in field on the Hopewell Road area, Ohio County on July 8 (KC); several at Masterson Station Park on June 2 (JF, MF); one bird singing in a hayfield north of Claylick Creek, about two and one-half miles SW of Marion, Crittenden County on June 25 (BPB); and another about two and one-half miles NW of Summer Shade, Metcalfe County on July 6 (BPB). Song Sparrows were seen along Mud Creek, west of Cayce, Fulton County on June 13 and several at the Hickman Ferry Landing on June 13-14 (BPB), thus extending its summer range south and west in the state.

Bobolinks through Finches — Fifteen to 18 pairs of Bobolinks were observed at Masterson Station Park on June 2, but only a few heard there on June 28 (MF, JF). A nest of the Orchard Oriole was found with young birds at East Bend on July 4 (LMc); two present at BPS until late July (KC). The species may be declining in some sections of the state, only six birds were recorded on ten June trips in various sections of Hopkins County (JH), and fewer were found in the Louisville parks than

formerly (S). The only nest of the Northern Oriole reported was one with an incubating bird located north of Marcus, June 5 (LMc). A fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird was being fed by an adult Common Yellowthroat, east of Corbin, Knox County on June 24 (MS). The House Finch was widely distributed and continued to move westward in the state. The species was found most commonly near towns in south-central Kentucky (MS); nests were seen in Burlington in April and July (LMc); singing birds were heard in the counties of Allen, Ballard, Caldwell, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton and Hickman (BPB); and several were in Corbin, June 24 and near London, Laurel County on June 26 (MS). American Goldfinches are known to be late nesters and the flock of 30 found in a patch of thistle in Hart County on July 3 was not unusual (BPB).

Contributors — Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Wally Brines (WB), Mike Burns (MB), Hap Chambers (HCh), Kathryn Clay (KC), Herbert L. Clay, Jr. (HC), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Jean Flynn (JF), Michael Flynn (MF), James W. Hancock (JH), Richard Healy (RH), William Kemper (WK), Frank X. Krull (FK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), C. M. Stinson (MS), Alita Wilson (AW), David Yancy (DY).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, and P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40223.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FISCAL YEAR 1989-1990

GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance as of September 28, 1989 \$ 3,188.89

Receipts

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| Membership Dues | | \$2,649.00 | |
| Interest Income: | | | |
| Endowment Fund | \$346.49 | | |
| Wilson Fund | 84.28 | 430.77 | |
| Meetings: | | | |
| Fall, 1989 | 118.00 | | |
| Spring, 1990 | 150.00 | 268.00 | |
| Sale of Annotated Checklist | | 911.37 | |
| Sale of Warblers | | 41.75 | |
| Sale of Checklists, Patches, etc. | | 55.21 | |
| Transfer from Wilson Fund — Postage | | 21.65 | |
| Transfer from Wilson Fund — Sales Tax | | 11.93 | |
| Miscellaneous Income | | 68.82 | |
| Income Adjustment 1989 | | 15.00 | 4,473.50 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 7,662.39 |

Disbursements

| | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| Printing Costs (Warbler) — 4 issues | 2,725.35 | |
| Envelopes — Mailing Warbler | 146.50 | |
| Postage — Mailing Warblers, Notices, etc | 389.95 | |
| K.O.S. Stationery | 112.55 | |
| Corporate Filing Fee | 12.00 | |
| Corporate Reinstatement Fee | 8.00 | |
| Treasurer's Expense | 24.21 | |
| Fall Meeting | 36.00 | |
| Spring Meeting | 221.13 | |
| Supplies | 14.69 | |
| Kentucky Sales Tax | 11.93 | |
| Rental Fee — Safety Deposit Box | 25.00 | |
| Postage for Mailing — "Annotated Checklist" | 21.65 | |
| Transfer of Sale of "Annotated Checklist" | | |
| to Wilson Fund | 911.07 | |
| Transfer of Interest to Wilson Fund | 84.28 | |
| Transfer of Life Memberships (6) to | | |
| Endowment Fund | 450.00 | |
| Beckham Bird Club — Membership Dues | 2.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 56.84 | 5,253.15 |
| Bank Balance as of September 26, 1990 | | \$ 2,394.24 |
| First National Bank, Louisville, Kentucky | | |

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Balance in Savings Account, September 28, 1989 | \$ 2,445.98 |
| Certificates of Deposit (4) | 4,500.00 |

Receipts

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Interest on Savings Account | 179.91 | |
| Interest on Certificates of Deposit | 346.49 | |
| Life Memberships (6) | 450.00 | 976.40 |
| | | \$ 7,922.38 |

Disbursements

| | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| Transfer of Interest on Certificates of | | |
| Deposit to the General Fund | | 346.49 |
| Balance in Fund, September 26, 1990 | | \$ 7,575.89 |

GORDON WILSON FUND

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Balance in Savings Account, September 28, 1989 | \$ 3,237.82 |
| Certificates of Deposit (2) | 2,000.00 |

Receipts

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Interest on Savings Account | \$ 167.52 | |
| Interest on Certificates of Deposit | 84.28 | |
| Sale of "Annotated Checklists" | 911.37 | 1,163.17 |
| | | \$ 6,400.99 |

Disbursements

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Transfer of Postage to General Fund | 21.65 |
| Balance in Fund, September 26, 1990 | <u>\$ 6,379.34</u> |

BALANCE SHEET**As of September 28, 1990****Assets:**

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Cash — General Fund | \$ 2,469.24 |
| Endowment Fund | 7,575.89 |
| Wilson Fund | <u>6,400.99</u> |
| TOTAL | \$16,386.12 |

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING

September 28-30, 1990

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 67th annual Fall Meeting at Kenlake State Resort Park on September 28-30, 1990.

Virginia Kingsolver began the Friday evening session with a welcome to those in attendance. Clell Peterson described the birding conditions at the Land Between the Lakes and field trips were outlined. Lee McNeely introduced the evening speakers. Dennis Sharp, naturalist with the Land Between the Lakes informed the group of the nesting success of Bald Eagles and Ospreys in the Land Between the Lakes. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. gave an update on the Breeding Bird Atlas project and provided entertainment with a quiz on bird identification using birds killed at a TV tower. Lee finished the program with a slide show and photo quiz. The Kingsolvers hosted a social hour in their lodge room following the Friday program.

The weather for the Saturday field trips was very pleasant. Lee McNeely led one group to Jonathan Creek, Silo Overlook and Hematite Lake areas and Clell Peterson started another group out at the R.C. Manchester Boy Scout Area.

The Board of Directors met in the lodge at 3:30 p.m.

The Saturday evening program was held in the lodge meeting room beginning at 7:30 p.m. following a buffet dinner in the lodge restaurant. Fred Busroe led in compiling the day's bird list, which totalled 119 species. The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year: President — Virginia Kingsolver, Vice-President — Lee McNeely, Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer — Dona Coats, Recording Secretary — Fred Busroe, and new Councillors — Dennis Sandlin and Thomas Stevenson. Brad Andres presented an excellent program on "Alaska: Glacier Bay to Harrison Bay."

Several groups organized field trips on Sunday and added 15 species, bringing the meeting total to 134 species. Total registrations for the Fall Meeting were 72.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING, 1990

- ANCHORAGE: Dr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Jr.
BEAVER DAM: Charlotte Moseley, Mary Moseley
BENTON: Julia Wooldridge
BEREA: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ricketts
BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. Don Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Shadowen
BUCKHORN: Eileen Sandlin
BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stephens
CALVERT CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Leeky, Gertrude Milton
CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver
COX'S CREEK: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Coates
CRITTENDEN: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Caminiti
CYNTHIANA: Mr. and Mrs. William Wigglesworth
HAZARD: Mr. Dennis Sandlin
LEXINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. James M. Williams
LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Mark Blackwell, Richard Cassell, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Clay, Jr., Stephen Figg, Timothy Love, Mr. and Mrs. James McCammon, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Donald Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pike, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stinson, Donald Summerfield.
MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. Bert Powell
MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe
MURRAY: Dr. Clell Peterson
NEW CONCORD: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sherwood
OWENSBORO: Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson
PADUCAH: Gene Boaz, Bernice Caddell
STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson
COLUMBUS, OHIO: Mr. and Mrs. Brad Andres
DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE: Kenneth Leggett
ESSEX, ENGLAND: Frank Bender

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, 1990

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Kenlake State Resort Park included: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Wild Turkey, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser

Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher sp., Common Snipe, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Empidonax* sp., Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Sedge Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 119 species. Additional species observed on Sunday field trips were Great Egret, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (late Kentucky date if documented), Short-billed Dowitcher, Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Swamp Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird, bringing the weekend total to 134 species.

FIELD NOTES

TOWER MORTALITY IN HENDERSON COUNTY

On September 21, 1990, the authors checked a television tower in downtown Henderson, Henderson County and identified 128 individual birds of 20 species that had died as a result of striking the tower and its guy wires during nocturnal migration. All specimens were in fresh condition, apparently having been killed during the previous night of September 20-21. A list of species and number of individuals follows.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| Gray Catbird | 1 | Bay-breasted Warbler | 10 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 1 | Blackpoll Warbler | 1 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 5 | Black-and-white Warbler | 7 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 26 | American Redstart | 2 |
| Nashville Warbler | 1 | Ovenbird | 35 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 15 | Northern Waterthrush | 1 |
| Cape May Warbler | 1 | Common Yellowthroat | 3 |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 2 | Scarlet Tanager | 1 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | 1 | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 1 |
| Palm Warbler | 13 | Dickeissel | 1 |

Of the 128 individuals identified, three were of particular interest. Both Cape May and Blackpoll warblers are relatively rare fall migrants in Kentucky, especially the latter, of which there are only a handful of well-documented fall records for the state. The Cape May Warbler is far more regular in eastern Kentucky in fall than in the west. The Dickcissel is unusual in that most birds depart the breeding grounds early and are not often encountered after the completion of nesting in summer. Interestingly, on the same day no birds could be found under a TV tower located approximately three miles northeast of this one.

—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222, and LENE RAUTH, 106 East Maple Court, Clarksville, Indiana 47130.

"SPOTTED" TOWHEE IN KENTUCKY

On December 31, 1989, while participating on the Otter Creek Christmas Bird Count, we found a male "Spotted" Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus [montanus]*), near the junction of Pack Lane with KY 1238 northeast of Garrett in rural Meade County. As is typical in individuals of this western race of our common Rufous-sided Towhee (*P. e. erythrophthalmus*), the bird's back was profusely streaked with white, accounting for its name. In addition to the light edgings to some of the primaries and tertials, the greater and median primary coverts were tipped with white, forming two distinct white wing bars. The scapulars were likewise broadly tipped in white. Streaks on the back were largest and most profuse along the sides of the back and smaller in the middle. Some white streaks were edged with buff. On one occasion the Spotted Towhee gave a rather raspy call note, quite unlike the distinctive 'che-wink' so characteristic of the eastern race.

Other than the above-noted markings, the Spotted Towhee appeared to be identical in size and plumage to normal eastern males. The eye was not detectably different in color, being a deep reddish-brown. The Spotted Towhee remained in the immediate vicinity for over a month, and fed frequently with other songbirds on cracked corn scattered on the ground in the area. The Spotted Towhee was always associated with a flock of 6-12 Rufous-sided Towhees, but it was often the last to move from one feeding area to another and was sometimes chased by the eastern birds. The Spotted Towhee was observed weekly through the month of January and last seen on February 4, 1990. It is probable that the bird remained through the winter. Photographs clearly showing all markings were obtained on several dates in January.

Mengel (*Birds of Kentucky*, pp. 476-478) makes no mention of the western race of the Rufous-sided Towhee occurring in Kentucky and Monroe (*Birds of the Louisville Region*, KW 52:62, 1976) states that "all Kentucky records pertain to the "Eastern Towhee" group (*erythrophthalmus*).” Thus it would appear that this record represents the first documented occurrence of the Spotted Towhee in Kentucky. Interestingly, the taxonomic distinctness of the eastern and western forms is a topic currently under investigation, and it is possible that the eastern and western forms may someday be split into separate species.

As a note of curiosity, it seems worthy of mention that the site of this observation was the exact locality where the Mountain Bluebird was observed during the winter of 1984-85!

— BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville 40222 and RICHARD CASSELL, 4004 Poplar Level Road, Louisville 40213.

FIRST RECORD OF NESTING NORTHERN HARRIERS IN HART COUNTY, KENTUCKY

On June 5th, 1990 Dr. Clay and I received a report that there was a mature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) at Nolin Lake in Grayson County. Our source also told us that there was a possibility that an eagle's nest might be on a farm in nearby Hart County.

On June 8th we decided to locate the farm and talk to the owner about an eagle's nest. He had no knowledge of this rumor but, as we discussed this with him, we watched a male Northern Harrier and a female Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) circling the hills and fields on the farm.

On June 10th, with the owner's permission, we drove into his field which had been recently cut. We watched for a few minutes and suddenly a female Harrier, carrying a mouse, appeared 300 yds. from us and dropped her prey into the grass. We felt that there was either a nest there or a young bird was being fed. We started walking toward the site where the prey was dropped and when we were almost at the crest of the hill the female Harrier swooped down at us protesting and missing us by a few inches! She hovered over us, menacingly, determined to make us leave. We left the area so we would not further interrupt their feeding schedule.

On June 11th we went back to the farm near Cub Run, Kentucky and observed, at 7:30 p.m. E.S.T., the male Harrier drop a mouse in a tall grassy field which paralleled the short grassy field. Since the female Harrier was perched on the ground in the short grassy field we could now account for three Harriers.

On June 12th we walked the entire hay field and also inspected the tall grassy field with no success in locating the nest. However, we were continually harrassed by both Harriers. The attacks became less serious and was reduced to protesting and circling over us.

On July 2nd, at 11:30 a.m. E.S.T., we watched the male Harrier drop a mouse to a young Harrier. The male had called from quite a distance before he arrived at the drop site. The young Harrier responded by becoming very alert, quickly rising from the ground, catching the prey in mid-air, taking it to the ground where the prey was quickly devoured.

Our observations of the plumage of the feeding young hawk was that it was quite dark above with a reddish (or rufous) half circle line over and under its eye giving it an owl-like appearance. Its chest was slightly streaked but had more rufous than the adult female.

On July 3rd we returned to the area and watched two young hawks "playing around" alternately soaring and perching. While two hawks perched in trees there was one young hawk that remained on the ground. We were then delighted to see, soaring in the distance, the adult male and female of the Northern Harrier. At last we had the five Harriers together!

In conclusion, although we did not find the nest of these birds we feel that they definitely nested there and successfully raised three young Harriers in the hilly terrain of Hart County.

— KATHRYN and HERBERT CLAY, 434 Mallard Creek Road, Louisville 40207.

NEWS AND VIEWS

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNTS

Those members who have participated in the Mid-winter Bird Counts in previous years should have received count forms for this year's count. The counts should be conducted between December 15 and January 2. If you are interested in conducting a count and would like additional information, please contact the editor.

MOVING?

If you are moving, please notify the Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer in order that the mailing of *The Kentucky Warbler* may be carried out expeditiously. Thank you.





The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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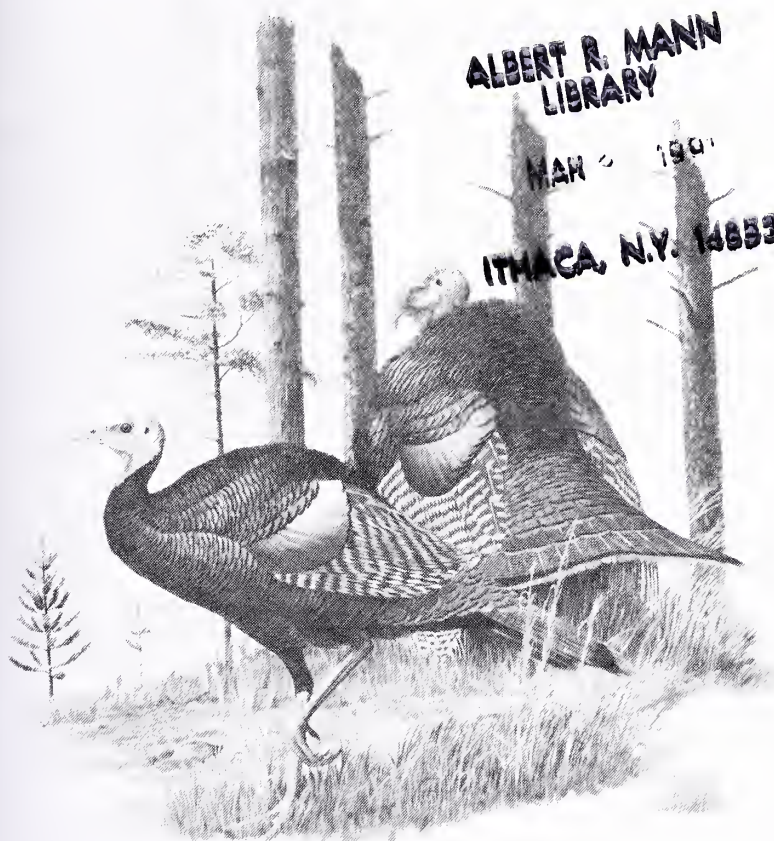
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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm, our staff artist, for this excellent painting of Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1990

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

The weather in August and September was generally quite warm and temperatures averaged slightly above normal, while precipitation, especially in September, was below normal. October and November were warm months all across the state. It was the warmest November 27th ever in Louisville, five degrees above the previous high set in 1927, according to the National Weather Service. High temperature records were not only broken in Louisville, but in Paducah — 78, breaking a 25-year old record by three degrees; and Lexington — 76, breaking a 69-year old record by four degrees.

Warm weather and more birders in the field produced a number of late departure dates. Waterfowl migration was delayed somewhat. The great flocks of ducks and geese did not arrive in western Kentucky until after December 1, according to Charles Wilkins, director of BWMA in Ballard County. Some species of sparrows were also late in arriving from the north.

Some of the rarer species encountered this fall included the Red-throated Loon, the ninth state record, White Ibis, American Avocets, Lesser Black-backed Gull and the Peregrine Falcon.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; Duck Island WMA = Duck Island Wildlife Management Area on Lake Barkley, Trigg County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; LP = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons appeared in five counties: Jefferson, Hopkins, Taylor, Clinton and Cumberland with the greatest number in the latter two counties. Quite unexpected was the sighting of a *Red-throated Loon* at Towhead Island, Jefferson County on November 24-29 (JB, PB, *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes were first noted on Lake Pewee, Hopkins County, with six birds on September 15 (JH), the number increasing to 25 on October 28 (BPB, LR, DC) and 24 on November 20 (JH); one to two birds at normal locations. Horned Grebes were scarce with only one to five being reported. Double-crested Cormorants were first observed at Shippingport Island (2 birds) perched in trees (LR); birds widely distributed (m.ob.) with the greatest number 170 at LBL Barkley Lake by (CP).

Hérons through Ibises — Although many Great Blue Herons were observed at Fish Pond, five miles west of Hickman, Fulton County on August 3 (BM, MM), they were widely scattered and few in number until late in September (CP) when they became more numerous, e.g., 24 were present at Lake Pewee, Hopkins County on October 12 and November 10 (JH) and 10 at LBL on October 6 (JB, PB). One to two Great Egrets were present in seven counties: Boone, Carroll, Hopkins, Jefferson, Marshall, Ohio and Pulaski (m. ob.); but many at Fish Pond (BM, MM) and 140+ at Lake #9, Fulton County on August 3 and September 29, respectively, with one lingering in the vicinity of Cool Springs Lake on the Peabody Ken Mine, Ohio County on October 28 (BPB) and one at Jonathan Creek, Marshall County on October 20 (MMi, CP). Few Snowy Egrets were reported: two at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM), four at Lake

#9 still present on September 29 (BPB) and one at Jonathan Creek unusually late on October 20 (MMi, CP). The latter two dates established late state dates for the species. Many Little Blue Herons, both adults and immatures, were noted at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM) while single immatures were seen at SWMA, Henderson County on August 5 (LR) and at Lick Creek, Boone County on August 7 (LMc); two immatures were still along the Mississippi River in western Fulton County on September 29 (BPB, DP). The largest group of Cattle Egrets reported totaled 67 at Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County on August 28 (CP) and noteworthy was the record of 20-30 feeding with cattle several miles west of Danville, Boyle County before mid-September (*fide* FL); three birds were observed at the Falls of the Ohio on August 29 (LR). Only small numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported with six birds as the high number at McAlpine Dam, Louisville, Jefferson County on September 25 (LR) and last observed there on October 12. Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were present at SWMA on August 5 (LR) and an adult and an immature at the Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (LR). A single immature *White Ibis* was present at Larue County Sportsman Club Lake on September 12 (JEL) and a photo was made on September 14 (DP). A bird alert went out and others got to see the bird.

Waterfowl — Waterfowl migration was later than usual. At BWMA Canada Geese only totaled 75-100 by September 19, but by the end of November only 5,000 had arrived (CW); of this number 60% were adults and 40% juveniles. On October 13 a family of Greater White-fronted Geese (2 ad. and 2 imm.) was seen at SWMA (BBC). Only small numbers of Snow Geese were reported: four adult birds at SWMA on September 22 (BPB, LR); two adults on Cool Springs Lake, Ohio County on October 23 (BPB, L. McNeil); and one at LBL — Hematite Lake (*fide* Rick Hoken). Ducks returned later than normal and numbers were low. The duck population at BWMA at the end of November was 800 to 1,000, but by December 12 some 8,000 to 10,000 had arrived, according to Charles Wilkins. The majority of ducks were Mallards and Blacks. No diving ducks had returned to the Danville area by November 23 (FL). The largest number of Wood Ducks reported was 100 at LBL on October 16 (JB, PB). Green-winged Teal were reported from six locations with high counts of about 75 at SWMA on October 13 (BBC), 69 at Jonathan Creek on November 7 (CP) and 15 at Thurston's Pond, Wayne County near Monticello (JEL). The peak count of American Black Ducks was 50 at LBL on November 30 (CP) and 25 at Thurston's Pond on November 28 (JEL). A flock of 137 Mallards had reached the Falls of the Ohio by August 22 (LR); and although not widely reported, some 50+ were present at Beargrass Creek, Seneca Park, Louisville on October 14 (S, FS), a similar number at Thurston's Pond on November 28 (JEL), but 200 at LBL — Honker Lake on November 23 (CP). Both Northern Pintails and Northern Shovelers were in low numbers while Blue-winged Teal were in slightly better figures with a high count of 200+ at SWMA on October 13 (BBC trip); and about 30 at Jonathan Creek on September 14 (CP) and 29 (BPB). Gadwall first appeared at Duck Island WMA, Trigg County on September 30 with 35 birds (BPB, DP, KCa, JCa); a few at Lake Pewee on October 13 (JH), numbers increased and more than 200 were seen in the vicinity of Fort Heiman, Calloway County and 60 at Honker Lake — LBL on October 24 (CP). American Wigeon were reported in low numbers except at Honker Lake — LBL where a peak of 460 was noted on October 31 (CP). Canvasbacks were scarce and only reported from two locations: 34 birds at Lake Pewee (highest count there) on November 10 (JH) and only a few on the Ohio River at Louisville by

late November (BPB). Ring-necked Ducks staged a good showing particularly at Lake Pewee with high counts of 380 and 439 on November 16 and 26, respectively (JH); 80 was the count on the BBC field trip in Louisville along the Ohio River on November 10 (JP). A female Greater Scaup was noted at LP on October 28 (BPB, LR). No large flocks of Lesser Scaup were noted. Two females or immature Black Scoters, rare fall transients here, were seen at LP on October 28 (BPB, LR), and an adult male at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, on October 23 (Lewis Kornman, Fred Busroe, Dan Brewer, Mike Hearn *et al.*). The male scoter was photographed by Lewis Kornman. A single immature Surf Scoter was also noted at Lake Nevin, Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on November 10 (BM). Buffleheads were common in pairs at various sites in western Kentucky on October 24 and were early by four days, providing an early state date (CP). At Lake Barkley \pm 75 Hooded Mergansers were observed on November 7 (CP); some 40 birds at Thurston's Pond on November 28 (JEL) and 10-12 at LP on November 11 (BPB *et al.*), and "small numbers" were present at Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County from October 30-November 20 (LMc). The only Red-breasted Merganser reported was one at the Mayfair Basin, Louisville on November 10 (JP, BBC).

Hawks — No great hawk flights were observed. A flock of 38 Black Vultures was observed at the Kentucky Utilities Power Plant, Carroll County on November 24 (KCa, JCa). A large flock of 100 vultures was also noted at the above site on October 28 with over 70 being Turkey Vultures and the rest Blacks (LMc, KCa, JCa, TS); 26 Blacks at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, October 10 (JEL) and smaller numbers elsewhere. Turkey Vultures were evidently migrating on November 21 when 95+ were seen over BPS, Grayson County (KC). A flock of 21 birds was perched on a tower adjacent to Long Run County Park, Jefferson County on November 2 (S, FS). Two migrant Ospreys were seen flying below McAlpine Dam on August 24 and last observed there on October 12 (LR); singles also noted at Fishing Creek Recreational Area (JEL), Rabbit Hash, along the Ohio River, Boone County (LMc), Lake Pewee (JH), LBL (JB, PB), and Green River Lake State Park, Taylor County (JEL). The latest Osprey remained through November 16 at LP (JH). A full adult Bald Eagle was seen attending a begging immature at BWMA on August 31 and an additional immature bird several miles away (BM, MM). Another immature was seen at LP on October 28 (BPB, LR); five (3 ad., 2 imm.) in the vicinity of Dale Hollow Lake, Cumberland County (RS, FSt); and an adult at Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County on November 28 (JEL). A migrant flock of 19 Mississippi Kites in groups of 3-8, all adults, was noted at BWMA on August 3 and one flock of 10 adults at Wickliffe, Ballard County also observed on the same date (BM, MM). Single female Northern Harriers were seen in Ohio (BM, MM) and Breckinridge (KC) counties on August 3 and 25, respectively, while the majority of the birds arrived in September and October, with the greatest number — 35 — in Ohio County on November 17 (KC, BBC). The species appeared in five counties: Breckinridge (KC), Hart (KC), Jefferson (PB), Muhlenberg (BPB, LR, DC), and Ohio (BE, TE, KC). No Broad-winged Hawk flights were reported. Two Rough-legged Hawks showed up in Ohio County on October 14, but 10 noted there on November 17 (KC, BBC) and 10 in Clark County on November 24 (BA). Three Peregrine Falcons were seen in western Kentucky September 29-30 during the Kentucky Ornithological Society weekend (KOS); one at the Falls of the Ohio on October 5 (LR), an immature there on November 19 (DP) and an adult observed occasionally in November (BPB).

Rails through Shorebirds — A fresh road killed Virginia Rail was found on the median between Timberwood Shopping Center and Jefferson Mall, Jefferson County on October 23 (DP). Single Soras were reported only from SWMA and at Duck Island WMA (BPB *et al.*). American Coots began arriving by October 24 with more than 500 in the vicinity of Bailey Hollow, Patterson Landing, Kentucky Lake, Calloway County (CP) and 354 at Lake Pewee (JH). The largest concentration was at LP with a count of 1,185 on November 10 (JH). Early Sandhill Cranes included 125 over Valley Station, Jefferson County on September 29 (RH). Flights occurred chiefly November 13-18, with approximately 1,000 over Hart County on November 13-14 (SK) and the same number in Hardin County on November 17 (MB, ST).

The shorebird migration varied from place to place depending on habitat; most species were present, but numbers were quite low. The Black-bellied Plover was found at only three locations: one, a juvenile, at the Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (BPB, LR), four juveniles at Duck Island WMA, September 30 (BPB, *et al.*) and one at Jonathan Creek on November 2 (CP). Only one Lesser Golden Plover was reported and that was at the Falls of the Ohio on September 18 (BPB, LR). Semipalmated Plovers were scarce even in western Kentucky: five near SWMA on August 5 (LR); only one at Jonathan Creek August 28 (CP); five at Lake #9 August 28 (BM, MM); and four + on a sandbar on the Mississippi River, Hickman County, September 11 (BPB, R. Cicerello). The only congregation of Kill-deers occurred at Falls of Rough, Grayson County, with 60+ on August 29 (KC) and 57 along River Road Country Club golf course, Louisville (JB, PB). Interesting were the three American Avocets below McAlpine Dam, Louisville on August 16 (LR), two in the same pool as above on August 29 (LR), also reported by Cap Middleton. Greater Yellowlegs were scarce with only one to five birds at six locations (m. ob.). Lesser Yellowlegs fared slightly better with 30+ birds at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM), 20 at SWMA on October 13 (BBC), 15 at Jonathan Creek (CP) on October 31, and one to four birds at four other locations (BM, JH, JEL, BPB). Sanderlings were present at a few places but in low numbers, while Semipalmated Sandpipers totaled 55 birds on August 5 near SWMA (LR), 10+ birds at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM) and seven at Honker Bay — LBL (CP). Western Sandpipers were recorded at four locations, with the highest number — 20+ — at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM), one to four birds elsewhere, and one as late as November 30 at Lake Barkley north of US 68 — LBL (CP). Some 50+ Least Sandpipers were counted at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM), four at Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County on August 12 (BM, MM) and three there on November 11 (BPB). Also, about 10 birds were present at Honker Lake — LBL on November 30 (CP) and small numbers irregularly at Jonathan Creek (CP). A single White-rumped Sandpiper was present at the Paradise TVA Plant, Muhlenberg County on October 24 and 28 (BPB with R. Cicerello, L. McNeil on the former date and with LR on latter). Greatest number of Baird's Sandpipers was nine at a lake near Hodgenville, Larue County on September 15 (JB, PB). Other sightings included two in flooded field 0.25 mile from SWMA (LR), three at Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (RH), one at Paradise Steam Plant on August 26 (BM, MM). The Pectoral Sandpiper, usually a common transient, was present in very low numbers, with 15 birds as the highest number observed at SWMA on September 22 (BPB, LR). Dunlins were fairly widespread (9 locations), with only one to four birds with the exception of Honker Lake — LBL with 28 birds on October 31 and 40+ at Jonathan Creek on November 14 (CP). One to two Stilt Sandpipers were noted at Paradise Steam Plant (BM), Jonathan Creek

(CP), Falls of the Ohio (RH), but eight at SWMA (BPB, LR); one bird lingered on a surface mine pond in Hopkins County through October 28 (BPB, LR). Five Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared at Jonathan Creek on September 3 (CP, Hap Chambers), at least four at Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (BPB) and one as late as September 30 on a gravel bar on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa, Lyon County (BPB, KCa, JCa). This latter record established a late state date. Short-billed Dowitchers were barely mentioned and were few in numbers, while Common Snipe increased in numbers from six birds at LP on September 29 to 28 on November 10 (JH) to 62 the following day (BPB, LR, DC). Other records included four birds at Lick Creek, Boone County (LMc), seven at Thurston's Pond (JEl), three to five at BWMA (BPB, LR) and three at Jonathan Creek (CP).

Gulls through Terns — Again, a Laughing Gull (first-year bird) was noted on Lake Barkley near Eddyville, Lyon County on September 30 — photo by K. Caminiti (BPB, KCa, JCa). A Franklin's Gull (sub-adult) was seen above Barkley Dam, Lyon County on September 28 (BPB, KOS); three on Lake Barkley, Boyd's Landing, Lyon County on September 30 (BPB, DP, JCa, KCa); and one immature was seen at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County on October 10 (JEl). Few Bonaparte's Gulls had returned to Kentucky by the end of the period, with a single bird present at LBL on November 7 (CP) and another at Lake Pewee on November 11 (BPB, LR, DC). Modest numbers of Ring-billed Gulls were present in the vicinity of Lake Barkley on September 11-30, with 14-15 at LP and on the Ohio River at Louisville. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen on Lake Barkley above the dam, Lyon County on September 11 (BPB, R. Cicerello). Another, or perhaps the same bird was noted on a mud flat on Lake Barkley near Eddyville on September 30 (BPB, KCa, JCa — photo by K. Caminiti).

Caspian Terns returned to only four locations and in small numbers. Two birds at the Falls of the Ohio on August 8 were the earliest (LR) and peaked at 11 on August 22 (LR); all other sightings were of two or three birds. Common and Forster's Terns were few with 13 Forster's at Jonathan Creek as the highest number (CP). A total of 25+ Least Terns was counted at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM); no others reported. An immature Black Tern was seen at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM) and two at the Falls of the Ohio on September 5 (RH).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — Only two reports of the Black-billed Cuckoo: one at Madisonville on September 19 (JH) and one south of McHenry, Ohio County on October 1 (BE, TE). Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were relatively late: one at Fishing Creek Recreational Area on October 1 and one at Thurston's Pond on October 24 (JEl). A single Common Barn Owl was present at Walton, Boone County on August 4 (KCa, JCa). Four Short-eared Owls were encountered near Hwy 369, Ohio County on November 10 (KC, AW). Common Nighthawks began migrating on August 23 when 50-60 were seen in Jefferson County over Hwy 841 (DS); and a flock of 185+ over the Shelby campus, University of Louisville, Jefferson County on August 29 (JA); one bird still present as late as November 1, over the above campus (JA). A Chuck-will's-widow was late at Hanson, Hopkins County on August 31 where it was last heard calling (Bonnie West *jide* JH). The largest flocks of Chimney Swifts totaled 300+ and were seen over a chimney in Somerset, Pulaski County and over Somerset Reservoir on August 22 and September 17, respectively (JEl); some 50+ were still present at the latter location on October 3 (JEl). At BPS 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had gathered by August 19, numbers dropped

in mid-September, four were left on October 1, and one lingered until October 19 but was gone the following day (KC). Another bird lingered at a feeder at Science Hill, Pulaski County until October 14 (JEL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were scarce, but "good numbers" arrived in Hart County in late September (SK).

Flycatchers through Wrens — An Eastern Wood-Pewee was late at BPS on October 19 (KC). It was interesting to see an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pennyroyal State Park, Christian County on the early date of August 12 (BM, MM). An unusually late Eastern Kingbird was carefully checked in a Science Hill yard on November 13 (Diane Elmore *vide* JEL). There were no large flocks of Tree Swallows. The group of about 100 birds over the lake at Cool Springs, Ohio County, November 3 was the largest concentration (RH); an estimated 40 at LP on October 12 (JH), where two lingered as late as November 11 (BPB, LR, DC). A Barn Swallow was also late at LP on November 11 (BPB *et al.*). The Red-breasted Nuthatch first appeared at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on September 22 (JB, PB). Other sightings included one or two birds at Louisville, Valley Station, BPS, and in rural Jackson County north of McKee and in eastern Muhlenberg County from October 2-November 28 (m. ob.). Single Winter Wrens were found at Munfordville, Hart County and in the Glasgow area, Barren County on October 14 (SK, RS, respectively). A single Sedge Wren was seen near a marsh in Ohio County on October 1 (KC) and several flushed at SWMA on October 13 (BBC, BPB). A few Marsh Wrens were encountered at Joe Creason Park, Louisville (JB, PB) and a couple flushed from a weedy patch at Duck Island WMA at Lake Barkley, Trigg County (BPB, DP, JCa, KCa). Also, several flushed at SWMA on October 13 (BBC).

Kinglets through Waxwings — Three Golden-crowned Kinglets returned to BPS relatively early on September 18 (KC); good movement during the third week in November at Hanson, where a flock of 16 was noted (B. West *vide* JH). A flock of 75 Eastern Bluebirds passed over BPS on October 19 (KC, BBC). The Swainson's Thrush was present from September 14-October 12 in low numbers, but common at Munfordville (SK). A Gray Catbird lingered at BPS until October 19 (KC). Cedar Waxwings peaked at 75+ at BPS on November 9 (KC).

Vireos through Warblers — Vireo flights were fairly good on September 10 and 29. A Bell's Vireo was heard along a road leading to Hardy Slough, SWMA, August 5 (LR). Philadelphia Vireos were present in numbers from one to three at Joe Creason Park, September 16-17, Bernheim Forest on September 22 and at LBL on October 6 (JB, PB), while one in the Danville area, Boyle County provided a late state date on October 17 (FL) and another on the same date at the Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville (JB, PB). There was some difference of opinion on the warbler migration. One observer felt there was a good movement with "hundreds" of warblers passing through, while another thought the migration uneventful. Single Golden-winged Warblers were seen at Joe Creason Park on September 16, 17 and 22 (JB, PB) and one each in September and October at Munfordville (SK). The Tennessee, as usual, was the most common, but this year especially at Munfordville, where "hundreds" were noted on a farm (SK). A few Orange-crowned Warblers were seen during September, with one as early as September 8 and is Kentucky's earliest record (JB, PB). The Magnolia Warbler was numerous at Joe Creason Park (JB). The Yellow-rumped Warbler was late in arriving, and no large

flights were noted. Three Pine Warblers were recorded in Ohio County, south of McHenry on October 1 (BE, TE); and a male at Surrey Hills Farm, Louisville on November 18 was a rather late migrant (BPB). A fair movement of Bay-breasted Warblers was noted at Beargrass Nature Preserve on September 29 (JB, PB). A single Blackpoll Warbler was picked up at a TV tower kill in Henderson on September 22 (bird probably killed previous night — BPB, LR) and another picked up near Westport, Oldham County on September 23 (bird probably killed within the week — BPB). American Redstarts were observed at Joe Creason Park August 31–September 30 with 12 as the greatest number on September 15 (JB, PB). A Swainson's Warbler was found dead under WGRB TV tower on October 17, apparently part of a major tower kill October 11–12 (JEL). Even though the bird was killed on October 11 or 12, it would still be a late state record. The location of the tower is at Columbia, Adair County. A total of 376 dead Ovenbirds was picked up beneath the tower mentioned above on October 17 (JEL). A Connecticut Warbler was discovered in a Danville yard on September 27 (FL) and one dead bird picked up at the TV tower near Westport, October 20 (BPB, D. Ebel). A Mourning Warbler was seen at Joe Creason Park on September 8 (JB, PB). A male Hooded Warbler at Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, Hardin County on October 13 was relatively late in departing (RH).

Grosbeaks through Finches — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared to be less common this fall in the Madisonville area (JH), while at Munfordville "hundreds" were seen from mid-September to mid-October (SK). An unusually late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on November 26–28 at Bowling Green, near Drake's Creek, southeast Warren County. The male bird was in winter plumage and documented on video tape (BF). A Blue Grosbeak was still singing in the vicinity of Brazzle Bridge, Hopkins County on August 8 (JH). The species was common on the PHSM on August 3 and 12 where at least three family groups, plus additional singing males, were present each day (BM, MM). A freshly killed Dickcissel was picked up at a TV tower in Henderson on September 22 (BPB, LR); and one still lingered near Petersburg, Boone County on October 6 (LMc). Grasshopper Sparrows were common on the PHSM on August 12, some still singing (BM, MM). A Henslow's Sparrow was noted in Butler County on August 26 where records, if any, are few (BM, MM). A freshly killed specimen of a *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* was found under the WAVE tower near Westport on October 20; it was probably killed a few days prior to the 20th (BPB). White-throated Sparrows were late in arriving and were in low numbers. A Dark-eyed Junco was relatively early at Anchorage on September 22 (BM). A Snow Bunting at Kentucky Utilities Power Company on November 18 was unexpected (KCa, JCa). There was only a small migration of Purple Finches; the earliest were recorded at Hanson on October 3 (B. West *vide* JH) and others trickled through during the remainder of the period. Call notes of a flock of eight to 10 birds heard very well as they passed overhead in northern Jackson County near Sand Springs on November 28 were identified as Red Crossbills (BPB). Pine Siskins were scarce and only reported from five locations in low numbers: EPS (KC), Berea (AR, TR), Louisville (BPB), Madisonville (JH) and Somerset (CH), while one bird arrived unusually early on October 1 and established an early state date (KC).

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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1990-1991

Reports of 21 counts were received from across the state. A total of 129 species was recorded on count days, 109 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days that are not represented on the table include: one Pacific Loon and one Red-throated Loon (Land Between the Lakes), two Greater White-fronted Geese (Paradise), one Greater Scaup (Burlington), one Osprey (Marion), one Prairie Falcon (Paradise), one Peregrine Falcon (Shelbyville), one Ruffed Grouse (Perry County), 39 Least Sandpipers, 43 Dunlin and three Lesser Black-backed Gulls (Land Between the Lakes), one Common Barn-Owl (Lexington), one Long-eared Owl (Paradise), one House Wren (Louisville), one Prairie Warbler (Otter Creek), one Common Yellowthroat (Otter Creek), one Indigo Bunting (Lexington), one Vesper Sparrow (Marion), three Lark Sparrows (Calloway County) and one Lapland Longspur (Paradise). Other birds of interest observed during the count period but not on count day included: one Mute Swan (possible release — Yelvington), one Peregrine Falcon (Louisville) and one Osprey (Perry County). There were 13 more species observed this year compared with last.

The temperature extremes reported for count days were 64°F in December to 12°F on January 1. The average daily temperature during the count period was 43°F which was rather mild. The mild weather might have accounted for the fact that Canada Goose, Mallard and American Black Duck numbers were much lower than last year when December temperatures plummeted to record breaking lows. The extremely cold temperatures to our north and west coupled with our mild temperatures might have accounted for the increase in Common Loon numbers and the presence of the Pacific Loon and the Red-throated Loon. Interestingly, Hooded and Common Merganser numbers also were up significantly this year compared with last. A striking increase in Bonaparte's Gull sightings was evident with 2,642 this year compared with only 3 last year. Conversely, American Robins (1,353), Cedar Waxwings (185) and Yellow-rumped Warblers (105), normally species found in greater abundance (6,212; 1,875; and 547, respectively in 1990), were clearly difficult to find this year. Pine Siskins were also relatively hard to find, only 99 this year compared with 596 last year. Red-headed Woodpeckers on the other hand were approximately six times more abundant this year than last. Whether these fluctuations in numbers can be attributed to climatic conditions, food resource conditions or a combination of these factors is difficult to say based on Mid-winter Bird Count census data for a given year. A decrease

in the abundance of cedar cones for example, as reported for several count areas, might have contributed to the decrease in Cedar Waxwing numbers. With the mild temperatures it was not too surprising that several summer residents, such as the Indigo Bunting and the Common Yellowthroat lingered in the area. It was nice to see the Common Barn-Owl show up on the count again this year and in a different location than last year.

Although observations based on Mid-winter Count bird census data are less than precise, several additional observations warrant mention. Once again, it seems as though no large blackbird and starling roosts were encountered in count areas. The number of Eastern Bluebirds (1201) was up only slightly compared with the number last year (1024). Loggerhead Shrikes held their own compared with last year also. A good diversity of sparrows was evident and the occurrence of Lark Sparrows and the Vesper Sparrow were unusual. Interestingly, the number of Purple Finches, House Finches and House Sparrows was approximately one half of the number of each of these species tallied last year. Other observations of interest have already been addressed above or can be found in the comments accompanying the description for each count. In order to be considered for state record status, documentation needs to be considered by the Kentucky Bird Record Committee for unusual sightings. This would include the following for this count: Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Prairie Falcon, Prairie Warbler, House Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Lark Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbird. Documentation forms will be sent to those compilers on whose count rare species were observed.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts.

CALLOWAY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential and 35% pastures and open fields. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Partly cloudy/sunny; temp. 14°F to 42°F; wind NW, 0-2 m.p.h.

Fourteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 58 (20.5 on foot, 37.5 by car). Total party-miles 386.5 (44.5 on foot, 342 by car). Total species 87; total individuals 11,484.

Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls had been seen prior to the count day.

Observers: Phyllis Brines, Wally Brines, Hap Chambers (compiler), Russell Dawson, Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Rick Hokans, Sally Leedom, Sally Mills, Mike Miller, Carl Mowery, Clell Peterson, Shari Sherwood and Tommy Sherwood.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 22%, overgrown and cultivated fields 28% and residential and small business 10%. Dec. 15: 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy (a.m.), partly cloudy (p.m.); temp. 58°F to 61°F; wind SW, 10-18 m.p.h.

Twenty eight observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 63 (29 on foot, 34 by car). Total party-miles 407 (25.5 on foot, 381.5 by car). Total species 95; total individuals 16,459.

The Pacific and Red-throated Loons were sighted 1 mile above Kentucky Dam on Dec. 15 (BPB, DP) and then again on Sunday, Dec. 16

(BPB, DP, CP, CM, JTE). The Adult Golden Eagles were seen over Barkley Lake (WB, ER), the immature at Hematite Lake (BH, CM). The unseasonably warm weather accounted for the high numbers of Double-crested Cormorants, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and the low numbers of Canada Geese.

Observers: Douglas Bohanan, Wally Brines, Gerald Burnett, Happy Chambers, Jack Dodd, Lorraine Dodd, Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Dan Frisk, Bob Head, Nita Head, Rick Hokans, Sharon Hutchison, Sally Leedom, Carl Mowery (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Don Parker, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, Michelle Putz, Wendell Ragland, Ed Ray, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood, Pat Wallace, Steve White, Carla Yambert, Paul Yambert.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat open, brush, woods, creek and river. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 22°F to 40°F; wind S, light.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (7 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 24 (4 on foot, 20 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 2,126. One Osprey was observed on the count day.

Observers: C. L. Frazer (compiler) and Jim Frazer.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279-S and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat fields, backwaters, large woods, shrubs and farmland. Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 56°F to 63°F; wind 5 m.p.h. Some snow and ice on the ground.

Nine observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 18 (12 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 38 (10 on foot, 28 by car). Total species 40; total individuals 1,962.

One hundred acres covered by backwater generally included on walks, several roads under backwater, thus territory limited.

Observers: Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, John Humphrey, Bert Powell, Millie Powell, Mandy Powell, Tommy Stevenson, Ed Wilson (compiler) and Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Kentucky Highway 405 and junction at Route 662 at Yelvington, Ky.) Habitat Ohio River Bottoms, Fish and Game Farm, roadside ditches, fields and woods. Dec. 22; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast with rain; temp. 30°F to 40°F; wind 10-15 m.p.h. Roads muddy from heavy rains on December 20. Intermittent rain on December 22.

Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 20 (6 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 37 (6 on foot, 31 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 1,286.

Due to several days of heavy rains prior to count day the Ohio River bottoms and the Blackford Creek area roads were flooded. River and creek bottoms have been the most productive areas in the past. One party did get to cover the Daviess County Fish and Game Farm. The area around Carpenter's Lake and environs was covered on foot. Two large wooded areas were covered in spite of intermittent rain. Roadside birding also yielded a number of birds. The largest number of birds was found at the feeders of Marvin and Maudie Ray, Mary Lee Thompson and the Powells. Not being able to cover much of our previous area is the reason for the small number of species and individual birds.

The Mute Swan has been on the lakes since October. It may be domestic but it is able to fly from one lake to the other. As the Mute Swan has been

found on the river and the gravel pit lakes several years ago we feel that this is a wild bird. One Evening Grosbeak was on the Powell's feeder.

Observers: Mike Brown, Neal Hayden, Jan Howard, John Humphrey, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Marvin Ray, Maudie Ray, Bob Stocking and Mary Lee Thompson.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields and creek bottom. Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 34°F to 48°F; wind E at 5 m.p.h. Extremely foggy, drizzle.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 7 (6 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 15 (5 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 17; total individuals 87.

Observers: Roseann Radzelovage (compiler) and Walt Radzelovage.

PARADISE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Hopewell Cemetery in southern Ohio County.) Habitat 30% grasslands, 20% woodlands, 20% farmland, 20% brushy edges and fields, 10% lakes and streams. Jan. 1; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 12°F to 40°F; wind variable, 0-5 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 44 (20 on foot, 24 by car). Total party-miles 258 (8 on foot, 250 by car + 4 hours owling). Total species 91; total individuals 11,084.

The center of the count circle was shifted slightly to include some recently discovered areas in Muhlenberg County. However, this small change did not eliminate areas covered on previous counts. Nearly perfect weather, combined with coverage of greater diversity of habitats, yielded the highest species total (91) in the three years this count has been taken. A good variety of waterfowl (3 species of geese, 13 species of ducks) led the way to the high total, but a good showing of some of the harder-to-find landbird species also helped out. Best finds of the count included the Prairie Falcon (JB, PB), the species' first appearance in this area in nearly two years, a pair of White-fronted Geese (RH), a Lapland Longspur (BPB, LS), and four Evening Grosbeaks (DP, KP, SB). Raptor totals were slightly lower this year, in part due to less comprehensive coverage of a few crucial areas, although numbers of hawks and owls have seemed a bit lower in most areas this winter. Short-eared Owls were most prevalent in Muhlenberg County; a bird with a broken wing was picked up alive in Ohio County and kept for rehabilitation (JC, KC, LM). The Long-eared Owl was found in the same location as previous years. Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were almost non-existent. Included in the total of 66 Red-tailed Hawks was a single melanistic individual.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Sean Burns, Joe and Kathy Caminiti, Dona Coates, Brenda and Tony Eaden, Richard Healy, Jr., Lee McNeely, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Donald and Katherine Parker, and Larry Sparks.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green. Habitat deciduous forests 20%, fields and pastures 70% and town and parks 10%. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 55°F to 64°F; wind S, 3-12 m.p.h. Steady drizzle in a.m.

Eight observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 13 (8 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 88 (6 on foot, 82 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 1,397.

Observers: Lloyd Curry, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell, Lisa Hicks, Philip Johnson, Bill Mathes, Ruth Mathes and H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1990-1991

| | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | PARADISE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NAT'L. PARK | GLASGOW | FALLS OF THE ROUGH | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | PERRY COUNTY |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|
| COMMON LOON | 2 | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | 6 | 26 | | | 2 | | 3 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | | |
| HORNED GREBE | 9 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DOUBLE-CR. CORMORANT | 1 | 230 | | | | | | | | 3 | | | 1 | | 7 | | | | | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 17 | 218 | * | 1 | 2 | | 19 | 3 | | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 24 | | 12 | 8 | 27 | 21 | * |
| BL.-CR. NIGHT-HERON | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| SNOW GOOSE | * | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | 57 | 797 | * | | | | 2100 | 9 | | 36 | | 13 | | 3 | 226 | 1 | 109 | 91 | 86 | | |
| WOOD DUCK | *2 | 2 | * | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 50 | | | | | | |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | | 109 | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | | 105 | 1 | | | | 15 | | | 9 | | | 3 | | 112 | | 3 | 12 | 23 | 10 | |
| MALLARD | 26 | 1269 | | 40 | 1 | | 548 | 24 | | 377 | | 208 | 45 | 56 | 1147 | 7 | 304 | 76 | 120 | 60 | |
| BLUE-WINGED TEAL | | 14 | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 24 | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | | | | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GADWALL | 1 | 4 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 6 | | | 2 | | | |
| AMERICAN WIGEON | 7 | 462 | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | 15 | | 10 | 2 | 1 | | |
| CANVASBACK | | 87 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 6 | | | | | | |
| REDHEAD | 15 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | 131 | 447 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 18 | | | | |
| LESSER SCAUP | 2 | 5 | | | 6 | | 2 | 5 | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | 326 | 8 | | | | | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| BUFFLEHEAD | 9 | 119 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 | | 3 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|
| HOODED Merganser | 3 | 534 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 30 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| COMMON Merganser | 5 | 298 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | |
| RED-BR. Merganser | | 2 | 4 | | | 1 | | | |
| RUDDY DUCK | 4 | 1 | | | | | 62 | | |
| BLACK Vulture | 1 | 1 | | | | 4 | 50 | 3 | 20 |
| TURKEY Vulture | | | | 18 | | 150 | 2 | 60 | 2 |
| BALD Eagle | 3 | 30 | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| NORTHERN Harrier | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | * | 1 |
| SHARP-SHINNED Hawk | 3 | * | 1 | 1 | * | 4 | * | 1 | 1 |
| COOPER'S Hawk | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| RED-SHOULDERED Hawk | 14 | 7 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 |
| RED-TAILED Hawk | 29 | 19 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 66 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| ROUGH-LEGGED Hawk | | | 2 | | | 24 | 1 | | |
| GOLDEN Eagle | 3 | | | | | | | | * |
| AMERICAN Kestrel | 34 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 41 | 9 | 22 | 13 |
| WILD Turkey | 3 | 24 | | | | 10 | 2 | 15 | 35 |
| NORTHERN Bobwhite | 68 | | 14 | 18 | 1 | 10 | 22 | 30 | 7 |
| AMERICAN Coot | 20 | 402 | | | | 1 | | | |
| SANDHILL Crane | 9 | 161 | | | 6 | | | *100 | * |
| KILLDEER | | 21 | | | | 4 | 13 | 1 | 2 |
| COMMON Snipe | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| AMERICAN Woodcock | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| BONAPARTE'S Gull | 2001 | 616 | | | | | | | |
| RING-BILLED Gull | 530 | 4831 | 28 | 1 | 290 | 9 | 36 | | |
| HERRING Gull | 15 | 159 | 3 | | 12 | | 2 | | 2 |
| ROCK Dove | 15 | 144 | 13 | 23 | 1 | 29 | 190 | 18 | 4 |
| MOURNING Dove | 214 | 26 | 150 | 65 | 11 | 51 | 160 | 57 | 36 |
| EASTERN SCREECH OWL | 5 | 2 | 1 | | * | 6 | | 1 | 1 |
| GREAT HORNED OWL | 10 | 1 | 1 | | | 9 | | 3 | * |
| BARRED OWL | 5 | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 5 | | 1 | |
| SHORT-EARED OWL | | | | | | 48 | | | |
| BELTED KINGFISHER | 10 | 16 | | 1 | 2 | 15 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| RED-H. WOODPECKER | 50 | 122 | | | | 5 | 31 | 1 | 12 |
| RED-B. WOODPECKER | 130 | 87 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 1 | 29 | 3 | 14 |
| YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER | 8 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 |

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1990-1991

[illegible]

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 16; 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 35°F to 44°F; wind N, 5 m.p.h.

No many of the northern species were here yet, too warm — no ducks, no American Robins, no Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 10 (3 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 47 (5 on foot, 42 by car). Total species 39; total individuals 434.

Observers: Rick Bryson, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Lisa Hicks, David Roemer, Herb E. Shadowen, Lois Winter.

GLASGOW (center and habitat as described in 1986). Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky heavy overcast and fog early; light overcast thereafter; temp. 38°F to 47°F; wind calm, 0-5 m.p.h.

Seventeen observers in 14 parties (See Comments). Total party-hours 46 (39 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 105 (6.5 on foot, 98.5 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 2,842.

Large numbers of waterfowl were observed at Barren River Reservoir, but most of them could not be positively identified due to poor visibility at the time of their sighting. The Cormorant sightings (2 immatures and 1 adult) represent a new winter record for this species on this count. We would like to thank the Glasgow Garden Club for their participation in this count; their feeder-watch results are greatly appreciated.

Observers: Marquita Gillenwater, Frances Goodman, Anna K. Jernigan, Howard M. and Francis Jones, Ron Lewis, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Kaye Mayfield, Doris McKinley, Elaine Murphy, Ruth Patterson, N. Richardson, Ann and Bill Rogers, Elizabeth Rogers, Faye and R. Russell Starr.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the intersection of Ky. Hwy. 54 and U.S. Hwy. 79, Short Creek, Kentucky in Grayson County). Habitat cultivated fields, woodlands, Rough River Lake and roadsides. Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 13°F to 31°F; wind calm.

Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 8 (1.5 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party-miles 55 (1 on foot, 54 by car). Total species 37; total individuals 1,178.

Observers: Joyce Porter (compiler) and Doralee St. Clair.

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Craddock Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat farms, woodlots, Green River, and ponds. Dec. 22; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 25°F to 45°F; wind variable, gusty. Dark afternoon, few birds after noon.

Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 55 (5 on foot, 50 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 2,030.

No cedar berries anywhere in the county. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Cedar Waxwings are almost absent.

Observers: Carol Friedman, Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton, and Mitchell Sturgeon.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 22%, woodlands 30%, farmland 34%, ponds, creeks and river 14%. Dec. 22; 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 57°F to 40°F; wind SW-N, 7-12 m.p.h. Light mist falling in early morning, heavy rain 11 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mostly cloudy in p.m., occasional misting.

The four and one-half inches of rain during the week prior to the count caused Otter Creek to be very high and the ground soggy. Also the Ohio River was unusually high and the adjacent fields were flooded in many areas.

The Double-crested Cormorant found flying across Doe Valley Lake was a new record for the count; it was found by the Stamm party. Other new count records included a Prairie Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat; both species apparently lingered beyond normal departure dates. The former species was observed by B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Deborah White and the latter by Palmer-Ball. Good documentations.

The mature Bald Eagle was found by Jim Pasikowski. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, as well as Northern Flickers, all showed sharp decreases in numbers compared with numbers in 1989. American Robins were scarce, with only six recorded, in sharp contrast with last year's record of 919. Cedar berries were absent and may have been the reason for the scarcity of robins and absence of waxwings and low numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers. The flock of Water Pipits found on the ground at the edge of a flooded area below Doe Valley Lake was an interesting find.

Seventeen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 41.5 (21 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 208.5 (16.5 on foot, 192 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 3,837.

Observers: Janet Aylward, Mary B. Bauer, Lloyd Curry, Mike Eirk, Richard Healy, Frank Krull, Jr., John Krull, Celia Lawrence, Jim Moore, Dovie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Jim Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm and Deborah White.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 58°F to 35°F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Light to moderate showers throughout the entire day.

Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 18 (5 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 110 (2 on foot, 108 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 1,822.

One has to expect that sooner or later every Christmas Bird Count is going to have its record worst day. Without question, this year's Bernheim CBC was the worst we've ever had, and one can only hope that we will never experience a day like it again. The only consolation of the count was that only six observers wasted their day attempting to make a success out of a miserable combination of incessant rain, gusty winds and falling temperatures. The species total (48) was six worse than the lowest previous total and the number of individuals (1,822) fell far below the count average of more than 6,000 birds. No real conclusions could be drawn from the results; unfortunately, it was too late in the count period to re-schedule. Interesting among the results was the fact that a record count for White-crowned Sparrows (65; previous high of 51) was tallied. Mac McClure, Forest Manager, reported seeing the local Golden Eagles on the day before the count. Thanks is graciously extended to those hardy observers who did take part.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Richard Cassell, Dona Coates, Tim Love, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler) and Martha Pike.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jet. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 39°F to 40°F; wind NW-SE, 12-5 m.p.h. Rained almost an inch the day previous to the count.

Thirty-five observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 89.5 (43 on foot, 46.5 by car). Total party-miles 405 (38 on foot, 367 by car). Total species 81; total individuals 17,018.

Almost an inch of rain fell the day prior to the count, leaving the ground soggy and the vegetation wet. The Ohio River and ponds were high and muddy. All participants felt that the birds were low in numbers. Seventeen species of waterfowl were present including 30 Hooded Mergansers. *Blue-winged Teal* were found at two locations and lingered beyond normal departure dates. The white "quotation" marks were obvious on some of the birds noted and the small size was also noted. A *House Wren* was still present and found with two Carolina Wrens (all field marks noted) by two competent observers.

Belted Kingfishers were up in numbers, perhaps due to the mild fall season. Carolina Wrens were in good numbers and were about 25% over 1989 figures. Winter Wrens were up too, while Horned Larks were scarcely present, with a low of 12 birds, as compared with 252 last year. Blackbirds were in low numbers and this year there are no roosts known locally.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Janet Aylward, Mary Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Marie Blahnik, Roland Blahnik, Dona Coates, Muriel Doolittle, Mike Eirk, S. A. Figg, Katy Fulkerson, Wayne Hinkle, Frank Krull, Sr., Frank Krull, John Krull, Tim Love, Colleen Mansmith, Fred Mansmith, Barbara McFarland, Jim McFarland, Dot Muntan, Doxie Noonan, J. R. Noonan, Martha Pike, Lene Rauth, Ginny Rommel, Helga Schutte, Tony Smith, Anne Stamm (compiler), F. W. Stamm, Mike Stinson, Midge Susie, Scottie Theiss, Ed Triner.

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center .75 miles south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on Ky. Highway 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farm land, fallow land, residential, wooded and grassland. Dec. 22; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast raining and foggy; temp. 40°F to 58°F; wind SW-NW, 0-5 m.p.h. Visibility was poor the entire day.

Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 10.25 (0 on foot, 10.25 by car). Total party-miles 310 (0 on foot, 310 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 5,602.

Vulture roost accounted for the large number of vultures.

Observers: Iris Brown, Leslie Brown, Todd Brown and W. H. Brown (compiler), Ron Pauley, Seth Pauley and Rebecca Reihm.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church and Bates Creek Road.) Habitat farmland and residential. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky dark and overcast. 56°F to 58°F; wind S, 5-10 m.p.h. Moderate to heavy rain.

Thirty six observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 160 (20 on foot, 140 by car). Total party-miles 295 (10 on foot, 285 by car). Total species 76; total individuals 15,813.

Observers: Brad Andres, Sarah Andres, Ruth Blimes, Earl Boggs, Earl E. Boggs, Gary Boggs, Mike Boggs, Ann Bradley, Eugene Bradley, Rose Canon, Manton Cornette, Ruth Davis, Phylis Deal, Lyda Feck, Michael Flynn, Maureen Furbacj, Smith Hundley, Terri Koontz, Bret Kuss, Betty Maxson, Robert O. McNeece, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Glenn Ralieggh, Ed Seiler, Lewis Shain, Mary Snyder, Richard Stofer, Jr., Mrs. Richard Stofer, Jr., Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, Andrew Uterhart, Sally Wasielewski, Jim Williams, Tim Williams, Jim Wilson and Bernice Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat water 14%, urban 2%, cultivated 14%,

field/fence 47%, wooded/edge 16% and feeder 7%. Dec. 15; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 51°F to 57°F; wind nil. Rain all day.

Eighteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 34 (3 on foot, 31 by car). Total party-miles 364 (4 on foot, 360 by car). Total species 53; total individuals 14,561.

Observers: Chauncey Alcock, Bob Corcoran, Lois Corcoran, Neil Eklund, (compiler), Scott Eklund, Virginia Eklund, JoAnn Hamm, Michael Hamm, Mort Hoagland, Tom Kearns, Bill Kemper, John Newton, John B. Nichols, Herb Petitjean, Margaret Rimstidt, Jim Roessler, Joe Russell, Joan Smith.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, KY.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 30%, farmland and fields 30%, streams and river 35% and residential 5%. Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 53°F to 61°F; wind S, 10-20 m.p.h. All water open.

Thirteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 36.5 (16 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 251 (6 on foot, 245 by car). Total species 64; total individuals 2,876.

The Greater Scaup, Bonaparte's Gull and Black Vultures were all found at the East Bend Power Plant. The Greater Scaup apparently was a female, observed during the morning at the East Bend Power Plant Ash pond by the Caminitis and Palmer-Ball. It was observed again during late afternoon by the same three observers, plus McNeely and Stephens. Field marks were noted during both observations, including wing markings during a short flight at the second sighting.

Also, while we weren't certain, it was felt that the Black Vulture flocks seen on the Warsaw and Burlington counts actually represented two separate roosts.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, Vivian Brun, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Kevin Flowers, Darlena Graham, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Gayle Pille, Carmen Schulte and Tommy Stephens. Feeder watchers were Barb Beckerich, Marjorie Hill and Lynda McNeely.

WARSAW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse.) Habitat river and shore 35%, open field and farmland 30%, woodland and forest edge 30% and residential 5%. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast a.m., clear p.m.; temp. 49°F to 53°F; wind S, 5-20 m.p.h. Rain showers during early morning, all water open.

Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (2 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 132 (1 on foot, 131 by car). Total species 51; total individual 1,653.

Highlights included a dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Bonaparte's Gulls, and 80 Black Vultures present at the Ghent Power Plant.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Darlena Graham, David McNeely, Lee McNeely (compiler) and Tommy Stephens.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sam Campbells Branch, Perry County.) Habitat mixed upland forest, disturbed by surface mining (reclaimed) and the north fork of the Kentucky River, Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 20°F to 35°F; wind light, 0-5 m.p.h.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8.5 (7 on foot, 1.5 by car). Total party-miles 20 (10 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 35; total individuals 461.

Generally find Northern Saw-whet Owl in this area each winter, but didn't find one yet this year.

Observers: Don Spencer (compiler) and Ben Spencer.

FIELD NOTES

RED-THROATED LOON IN LOUISVILLE

On Saturday, November 24, 1990, while birding upriver along the Ohio in Louisville, Kentucky, we observed many Common Loons on the water. We then proceeded downriver to Towhead Island where Beargrass Creek enters the Ohio River. At first we did not see any birds, but scanning the area with our binoculars we picked up a bird diving about 25-30 feet offshore. When it resurfaced we identified it as a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). The loon was smaller than the Common Loons we had seen earlier, its head and the back of the neck were uniformly pale grey, the beak was slender and upturned, specks of white were visible on its back, and there was still a splotch of red on the neck. We observed it for an hour swimming and making quick dives in the relatively calm waters protected by the island and tied-up barges. It ate approximately five fish during this period. As we left, it was swimming out into the river downstream.

We again observed the loon on Sunday, November 25, in the same area. The bird was very cooperative coming as close as five to six feet offshore.

A Beckham Bird Club bird alert was started on Saturday, November 25, and many members saw the loon during the time it was present. The loon was last reported being seen on Thursday, November 29.

This is the ninth record for the Red-throated Loon in the state of Kentucky and the first since 1977. (*Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, Monroe, Stamm, Palmer-Ball).

—JANE BELL and PAT BELL, 306 Fairlawn Road, Louisville 40207.

A NEW BIG DAY RECORD FOR KENTUCKY

Although of little scientific value, one of the most enjoyable of birding activities is the "Big Day." The Big Day as a birding endeavor is about as old as birdwatching itself. It involves the attempt by an observer or group of observers (a "party" or "team") to identify as many species of birds as possible in a given area during a single calendar day. Although Big Day Counts are often undertaken by clubs and other groups within a given area with contributions from several parties, emphasis here is placed on the day's list compiled by a single group of observers who stay together throughout the effort.

For many years there have been attempts to compile Big Day lists in Kentucky. Dr. Gordon Wilson was probably the first to publish results of such an effort in Kentucky (*KW* 15:31-32, 1939). Dr. Wilson's list of 110 species observed on April 22, 1939 is quite impressive, especially since it was done within a fairly limited area and about two weeks before the normal peak of spring songbird migration. Kentucky's "official" one day count record of 151 species identified by a single party was accomplished on May 5, 1982. This total has been published by the informal "official" source for such data, the *American Birding Association*. On May 7, 1990, the authors compiled a party list of 162 species seen and/or heard during the 24 hour period on that date, thus breaking both the published record

of 151 species and two other counts of 156 species made by the three of us on May 5, 1988 and by Erwin and Palmer-Ball on May 4, 1989.

During our all day count on May 7, 1990, we birded entirely in the western counties of Kentucky, visiting such areas as the Land Between the Lakes, Ballard Wildlife Management Area, and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge. As has been specified in requirements set forth by the *American Birding Association*, all observers in the party remained together for the entire day, and all identified at least 95% of the total list recorded. All birds were seen or heard within the state of Kentucky and during the 24 hour period of May 7, 1990.

Nearly all species were identified visually, but 15 were heard only. Among the total, seven species of herons and egrets, eight species of waterfowl, eleven species of shorebirds, and 31 species of warblers were recorded. It was surprising that out of the 162 species identified, none could be called extremely rare, perhaps the best finds being a Virginia Rail observed at the Ballard Wildlife Management Area and a pair of Lark Sparrows seen in eastern Calloway County.

This total is rather impressive, especially when one considers how difficult it can be to observe even a *hundred* species in a single day in many parts of the state. The combination of a good variety of waterbirds and the peak of passerine migration can result in a much higher total than may be present a couple of weeks earlier or later in the spring.

As was hoped by Dr. Wilson in 1940, it is hoped that by publishing this account, a certain amount of motivation can be elicited from readers to participate in their own Big Day counts. You can make a Big Day count in your own yard, your home county, or as most are done, over as much of the state as you wish to try to cover in a single day.

—JOE TOM ERWIN, Hamlin, BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Louisville, and DON PARKER, Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. CAN BE PROUD

Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., who is a Past-President of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and currently President of the American Ornithologists' Union, was elected as one of the new North American members of the International Ornithological Committee; the election took place at the 20th International Ornithological Congress held in Christchurch, New Zealand, 2-9 December 1990. Dr. Monroe was also commissioned to form and chair a working group of international ornithologists and birders to draw up a list of standardized English names for all bird species worldwide; the group is to present their results at the 21st International Ornithological Congress, which will be held in Vienna, Austria, 21-27 August 1994.

Dr. Monroe is also co-author with Charles G. Sibley of a new book entitled "Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World," published by Yale University Press in New Haven, Connecticut. The book, released at the Congress in New Zealand, is 1,111 pages long and contains the distribution of all bird species in the world arranged in the new taxonomy proposed by Sibley, Jon Ahlquist and Monroe in 1988. Also included is a new list of bird numbers, which has been adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union for its future editions of the "Check-list of North American Birds", a set of 25 original maps and accompanying gazeteer listing more than

3000 localities used in the bird distributions, and an extensive bibliography of ornithological papers dealing with bird systematics. The book is available from Yale Press for \$125.

ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Interested in the study of birds? You might enjoy membership in the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO). They offer a terrific quarterly *Journal* that includes articles on field research techniques and on the life history, ecology, behavior, migration, and zoogeography of birds. The journal includes Spanish abstracts, reviews of scientific articles published in other journals, and an annual supplement, *Resident Bird Counts*. Members also receive a bimonthly *Ornithological Newsletter* with job opportunities (paid and unpaid) and other scientific bird news, a chance to attend the annual meeting, discounts on mist nets, and more. Send \$21 (\$15 for students, \$45 for institutions) to AFO, c/o Allen Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, Kansas 66044, or ask for our brochure (same address)."

GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS

If you are interested in designing and planting a garden that serves as a haven for birds, Cornell Laboratory has the answer for you. For a self-addressed stamped envelope you can learn more about landscaping for birds, including suggestions of plants, birds they will attract, and sources for detailed plant lists and gardening ideas. Write to Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology, EIS Dept. N1, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held on April 26-28, 1991 at Carter Caves State Resort Park. Members planning to attend should make their reservations and room accommodations directly with the park as soon as possible. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005. Members are also encouraged to bring one to two slides for the photo-quiz portion of the Friday evening program.

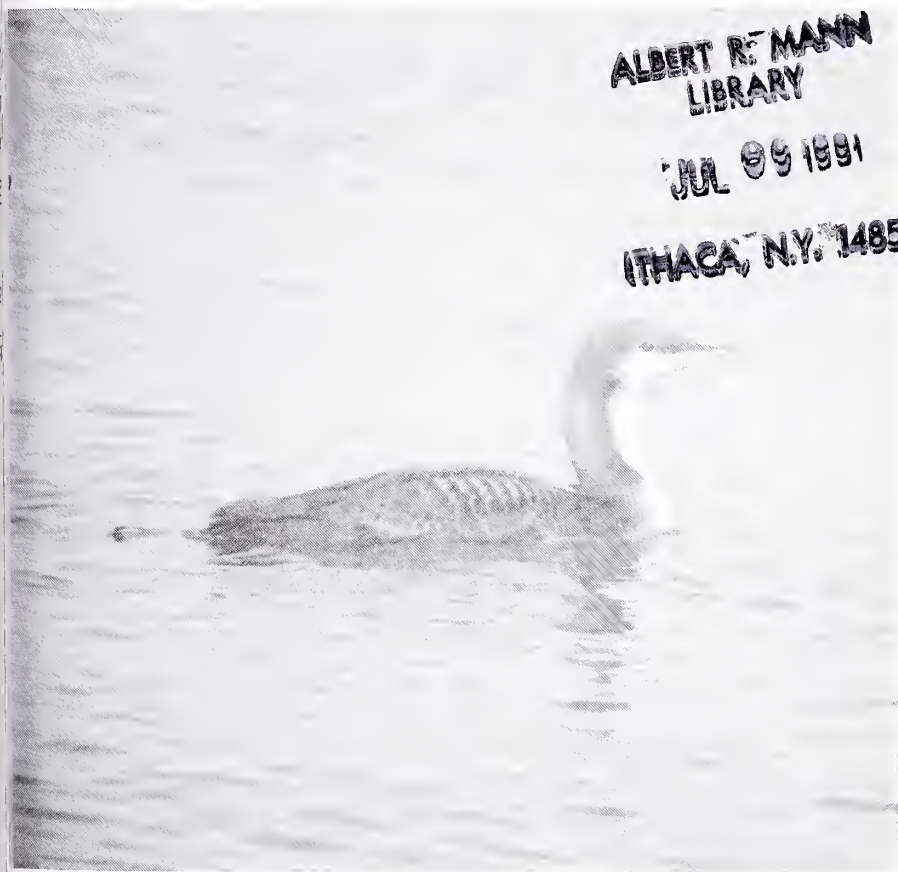
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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family, \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

We thank Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. for the excellent photograph of a Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (see Field Note section).

THE WINTER SEASON, 1990-1991

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

The weather during the winter period was unusually mild. There was no snow, but rainfall was above normal, with flooding in late December and early January, particularly in western Kentucky. The coldest day of the three-month period (December, January and February) was on February 16 when the temperature dipped to 7 degrees and a high of 31 degrees.

The mild weather enticed some species to linger beyond normal departure dates and some to overwinter. It was thought that many of the waterfowl remained on the lakes in Ballard County, where conditions seemed suitable to their needs, without going farther south. Northern finches were scarce, but a few rarities helped to make the season more interesting.

Abbreviations: BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; CHL = Chaney Lake, Warren County; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; CSL = Cool Springs Lake, Ohio County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; LBar = Lake Barkley; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; McEL = McElroy Lake, Warren County; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery; SCL = Sportsman Club Lake, Larue County; ThP = Thurston's Pond, near Monticello, Wayne County. The "transient lakes" are McElroy and Chaney lakes, Warren County.

Loons through Herons — A *Red-throated Loon* was first seen on LBL Kentucky CBC about 1.5 miles above Kentucky Dam along the western side of the lake, Marshall County, on December 15, 16 and 19 (BPB, CP, JTE, Don Parker and Carl Mowery, Jr.). A *Pacific/Arctic Loon* sighted on December 15 and 16 in the same areas as the *Red-throated Loon* is under review by the KBRC. Three Common Loons were still present on the Peabody Sinclair mine in eastern Muhlenberg County on December 2 (BPB, DC) and small numbers lingered through mid-December at Kentucky Lake and LBar but disappeared later (BPB); three birds lingered through January 12 at Green River Lake, Taylor County (JEL); up to six were reported at CRL between December 10 and February 22 (FB); three at Laurel River Lake, Laurel County on February 10 (JEL); and four had returned to Kentucky Lake on February 28 (BPB, RC). Twenty-five to 30 *Pied-billed Grebes* were still at LPew on December 2, but by December 19 only seven were found; a few remained at various places throughout the state in December but were scarce after the CBCs. A few *Horned Grebes* were still present in December with two at LPew on December 2 (BPB, DC); small numbers at the western Kentucky lakes through mid-December (BPB); four present at Green River Lake on January 12 (JEL); a single bird at McEL on February 3 (BPB, DC, RCa); and two at Hamlin, Calloway County on February 28 were probably early migrants (JTE, *fide* CP). The fall migration of *Double-crested Cormorants* continued through December and early January in western Kentucky with 190 on LBar at Silo Overlook on December 9 (BPB), 270 at LBL, Trigg County south of Silo Overlook, and about 30 in flight near the Overlook on January 11 (CP); single birds were reported in Meade (S, FS) and Muhlenberg (BPB, DC) counties in December, whereas one to three wintered at

Louisville (LR) and EBPP (KCa, JCa, LMc); and two were at MCFH on January 11 (FB). Great Blue Herons wintered in small numbers, but a concentration of 82 was observed at Hamlin, Calloway County on January 2 (JTE, *fide* CP).

Waterfowl — An immature Tundra Swan was reported in Pulaski County January 2-11 (JEL). Winter reports of Greater White-fronted Geese included two at CSL on January 1 (RH), nine at McEL February 23 (BPB, JB, PB, LR, JEL), five at BWMA (CW), and two at CRL on January 9 and 11 (FB, L. Kornman, A. Surmont, S. Bonney); the latter is a first record for eastern Kentucky. Numbers of Snow Geese peaked at BWMA with 15,000-18,000 (CW), but only a few were found elsewhere, e.g., 13 at SCL (JEL) on January 12, one noted January 14 at the Owensboro Bypass, Daviess County (KC), and up to 10 birds at McEL on February 23 (BPB). Canada Geese were numerous at BWMA where they peaked at 110,000 (CW); the species was widely distributed during the winter with 1,000 at CSL (KC), 241 at SCL (JEL), up to several hundred at McEL (BPB), 78 at LPew (JH), and smaller numbers at Madisonville, Hopkins County (JH).

The mild winter and the flooding in western Kentucky in late December and early January made conditions right for ducks, and many remained rather than heading farther south. The duck population at BWMA reached 50,000, the highest number since 1972 (CW). Elsewhere most numbers were relatively small. A few Wood Ducks were observed during the winter at Caperton's Swamp and along the Ohio River at Louisville (MS); eight at BPS in December, but these left and others were seen again in late February (KC); and two pairs at CHL (BPB *et al.*). As many as 12-15 Green-winged Teal were present at LPew on December 2 (BPB, DC), with five still there on December 19 (JH); returning migrants arrived at the transient lakes on February 3 and continued throughout the month with no more than six on any one date (BPB). Large numbers of American Black Ducks were observed at BWMA (CW), but there were few reports from elsewhere; 50+ was the peak count at the transient lakes, whereas a similar number from CRL was a local high count (FB). Two Northern Pintail were still present at SCL on January 12 (JEL); and present at the transient lakes from January 13 through February, with a peak of 25-30 birds on February 3 (BPB, DC, RCa). Large numbers of Mallards were at BWMA (CW) and the peak at McEL was 500 (BPB), whereas 38 was a high count at Lentz's Pond, Louisville on December 15 (JB, PB). Apparently a few Northern Shovelers wintered in Kentucky this year, with four males and two females spending the winter months at Cave Hill Cemetery Lake, Louisville (MS); three birds at McEL from January 13 through February, with a peak of nine plus on February 23 (BPB *et al.*); one at CSL on January 15 (KC, AW); and two birds as late as December 30 at ThP on December 30 (JEL). Small numbers of Gadwall were noted at LPew, the transient lakes, and CSL. At least 60 American Wigeon were present at Honker Lake, LBL on December 9 and present at the transient lakes from January 13 to the end of February (BPB); it was rather unusual to see a male American Wigeon on a small pond in Ten Broeck subdivision, Louisville, with several wild Mallards on February 14 and 15, where wigeons have never before been recorded (S, FS). Canvasbacks peaked at LPew with 70 birds on December 10 (BPB), and 36 were still there on January 15, with three remaining until February 12 (JH); smaller numbers were observed on the Ohio River basin at Louisville on December 15 (JB, PB); and up to two males were noted at McEL during February (BPB). Redheads were present at McEL from

February 3-28 in small numbers but peaked on February 23 with 25+ (BPB *et al.*). Ring-necked Ducks were present at LPew from December 2 to February 20, with the greatest number of 319 on January 15 (JH); 25-30+ was the peak count at McEL on February 3 (BPB, DC, RCa); five were seen on CSL on January 24 (KC); and three were noted at Towhead Island, Louisville on February 25 (MS). A number of Greater Scaup were reported: one at EBPP on December 29 (KCa, JCa, BPB), one at Camp Ernst Lake at Burlington, Boone County on January 2-12 (LMc), an immature male at McEL on January 13 (BPB, D. Ebel), a large flock (50+) over northern LBar above the dam on February 9 and March 2 (BPB); and an adult and one first-winter male at Towhead Island on February 25 (MS). Two male Surf Scoters were noted on the Ohio River at McAlpine Dam, Louisville on January 11 (LR). Common Goldeneye were present at LPew from December 2 to February 12, with only a high of 11 birds on the latter date (JH); and fair numbers at McEL in January and February, with a peak of 25-30 birds (BPB). Buffleheads were present at LPew from December 2 to February 20, with a peak of 30 on December 2 (BPB); 80-90 birds were noted at CRL on January 3, increasing to approximately 100 on January 11, with about 50 still present on January 19 (FB); and a pair was recorded in eastern Jefferson County near Prospect on February 15 (MS). Few Hooded Mergansers were reported: six at LPew on December 11 (JH) and a few at McEL on January 13, February 3 and 23 (BPB). One to two Common Mergansers were found at EBPP on January 5 (KCa, JCa) and January 19 (LMc), whereas one was noted on the Ohio River basin at Louisville on December 15 (JB, PB). Six Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at LPew on December 2 (BPB, DC) a female on the Ohio River at Louisville on December 4 (LR), one at EBPP on January 5 (KCa, JCa), and a female at McEL on January 13 (BPB, D. Ebel). As usual, LPew had the greatest number of Ruddy Ducks — 100 — on December 2 (BPB, DC), and one to three were seen at Green River Lake, Taylor County (JEl), CSL (KC) and McEL (BPB, DC).

Raptors — As a result of the mild winter, Black Vultures were present in unusually high numbers in north-central Kentucky; some 80+ were roosting in trees near the Kentucky Utilities Power Plant, Carroll County on December 15 (KCa, JCa, LMc), with 50 still at the site on January 19 (LMc); 60+ roosting at EBPP on December 29 (LMc); some 30-40 roosting on a tower during the winter along I-71 in Oldham County (Barry Tungland, *vide* BPB); 20-30 on a tower along I-64 in eastern Jefferson County in December (BPB, L. McNeil); 12 in Hart County near Nolin Lake on February 2 (KC); four in eastern Spencer County on February 22 (MS); two over Cave City in Barren County on February 22 (MStu); and two in western Anderson County on February 23 (MS). A flock of 25 Turkey Vultures was noted near Nolin Lake in Hart County on February 2 (KC, AW). The Bald Eagle survey taken in January totaled 169 birds (DY); in addition, single birds were seen between December 13 and February 24 in Barren (SK), Bullitt (BBC), Hardin (S, FS), Hart (SK) Warren (BPB, DC, RCa) and Woodford (JR) counties, and one or two birds were reported on numerous occasions at CRL and MCFH between December 10 and February 22 (FB). Northern Harriers were numerous in Ohio County, particularly on January 26 where some 40-45 were counted during a BBC field trip led by KC, and several birds of both sexes also noted in Muhlenberg County on February 3 (MS, BM, MM); one at ThP area on January 5 (JEl); and two at SCL on January 12 (JEl). A few Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported; an individual was noted at a feeder

in Morehead, Rowan County catching a European Starling on February 14 and a House Finch on February 16 (FB). Only small numbers of Cooper's Hawks were reported, and Red-shouldered Hawks continue to be in low numbers. This winter single birds believed to be the "Harlan's" form of the Red-tailed Hawk were seen in southern Ohio County on January 3 (KC, AW) and February 3 (MS, BM, MM); a melanistic Red-tailed Hawk was present in Gallatin County on December 15 (LMc) and another near CSL on February 23 (BPB, LR, JEL, D. Elmore); and a "Kriders" was seen and photographed at EBPP on January 19 (LMc), while an adult and immature were seen in southern Ohio County in late February (BPB). Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Breckinridge, Muhlenberg and Ohio counties; no less than ten were seen in one spot on the Peabody Sinclair mine in eastern Muhlenberg County on January 1 (BPB, L. Sparks), and 15+ to 20 were the peak numbers in southern Ohio County on January 24 and 26 and February 30 (KC, BBC). An adult Golden Eagle was noted at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on February 10 (BPB, R. Klapheke). An adult Peregrine Falcon apparently wintered in downtown Louisville in the vicinity of 5th and Jefferson streets, as one was seen on various dates from December 12 to February 7, and an adult, probably the same bird, perched on the Kentucky Home Life Building on February 9 and the Brown Williamson Tower on Liberty Street on February 11 (CL). A *Prairie Falcon* was reported on the Paradise CBC, Ohio County on January 1 (JB, PB) and noted again on January 4 (KC) and January 13 (BPB).

Coots through Shorebirds — American Coots remained throughout the winter at LPew (JH), Kentucky Lake near the dam (BPB), and a few at McEL (BPB); however, the birds were not as numerous this winter. Sandhill Cranes were still moving southward through December 30, including a flock of 700 in Hart County (SK), two large flocks over Glasgow, Barren County (RS), and smaller numbers in Grayson and Jefferson counties (KC, JB, JJ); spring migrants began arriving on January 22 with approximately 50 over Cave City in northwestern Barren County (MStu), 88-90+ at McEL on February 3 (JB, PB, BPB), 250+ there on February 23 (JB, PB), 18 on the ground in Mercer County near McAfee on February 24-25 (T. and A. Bloom, *vide* BPB), 92 birds over southwestern Jefferson County during February 26-28 (RH), and birds passing over Surrey Hills Farm, Jefferson County on two dates in late February with more than 100-120 on one day and about 80 on the other (B. Palmer-Ball, Sr., *vide* BPB).

The concentration of 108 Killdeers in a flooded field along Highway 90 in Wayne County near the Pulaski/Wayne County line on January 5 was unusual for that time of year (JEL). Single yellowlegs were reported from LPew on 2 December as a Lesser (BPB, DC) and on 11 December as a Greater (JH); at this point, we are considering both records as "yellowlegs (sp.?)", but if accepted as identified, each would be a late date for their respective species, 15 days for the Lesser and ten days for the Greater. Least Sandpipers lingered at Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake, Marshall County through December 8 (CP) and 9 (BPB), and the CBC on December 15, with a count of 39 birds. Dunlin remained at Jonathan Creek in groups of 35-43 through December 15 (CP). Common Snipe were present in December in groups of 17 (JH) and 20 at LPew (BPB), 15-20 at Jonathan Creek on December 9 (BPB), and seven at ThP on January 5 (JEL). A few American Woodcock lingered rather late and one was performing its courtship flight near Jonathan Creek on December 9, and one was flushed near Swan Lake on December

10 (BPB); spring migrants returned to BPS on February 11 (KC) and at Glasgow on February 15 (RS); others were heard at Eubank, Pulaski County on February 24 (JEl), and at least three were heard in courtship flight in eastern Spencer County on February 27 (MS).

Gulls — Bonaparte's Gulls were fairly widespread with the greatest number at Hamlin — about 5,000 — on December 31 (JTE, *fide* CP); several hundred were present on the western Kentucky lakes in early December, mid-December and January 6 (BPB); some 50+ were at Green River Lake, near the state park on January 12 (JEl); and two were seen at Louisville on the Ohio River on December 14 (LR). Ring-billed Gulls were in lower numbers in late December than last year, but numbers built up by February, especially at the western Kentucky lakes, where it was estimated that approximately 10,000 were present at Kentucky and Barkley dams (BPB); 52 was the high count at McAlpine Dam, Louisville (LR); 50+ at Green River Lake on January 12 (JEl); 33 on Nolin Lake, Grayson County on February 2 (KC, AW); ten on the upper end of Taylorsville Lake, Anderson County on February 22 (MS); and about 200 wintered on CRL, with another 225 noted at MCFH on February 22 (FB). Herring Gulls were in lower numbers in late December compared to last year. An adult Thayer's Gull was noted at Barkley Dam on January 6 (BPB, M. Bierly *et al.*); and a second-year bird on Barkley Dam on February 9 (BPB, LR). Two adults and two first-year Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed (and one of each photographed) in the vicinity of Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston counties, on December 15 (BPB, DP) and December 16 (BPB, DP, CP, JTE, C. Mowery, Jr.).

Doves through Woodpeckers — A Mourning Dove was incubating on a nest at the University of Louisville campus, Louisville as early as February 13 (MS). Short-eared Owls were not as numerous this winter as compared to last year. As in recent years, the birds were found in both Muhlenberg and Ohio counties, with as many as 30 on January 30 in the latter county (KC); 3-5 were reported in Grayson County (KC) and three in Green County (LC), both new county records. An injured Long-eared Owl was found on November 27 in Owenton, Owen County and turned over to Raptor, Inc. for rehabilitation (KCa, JCa); no others were reported, except for the one on the Paradise CBC in eastern Muhlenberg County on January 1 (BPB). Red-headed Woodpeckers were fairly numerous in late December in the LBL area and fair numbers were present in Mammoth Cave National Park (CBC).

Flycatchers through Shrikes — Eight Eastern Phoebe's lingered through the CBC period, but the only sighting afterward was one at Science Hill, Pulaski County on February 16 (JEl). Horned Larks were not numerous this year, particularly in December, but numbers increased during January, with large flocks of 500 and 1,000 birds noted in the vicinity of McEl on January 13 and February 3, respectively (BPB); a flock of 150 was seen at U. K. Agricultural Experimental Farm north of Lexington, Fayette County during January (WD). Populations of Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice remained good. Red-breasted Nuthatches were present but in low numbers (e.g., Kentucky had only a total of 21 birds on the 21 CBCs). The Carolina Wren population was up markedly over last winter. Eastern Bluebirds were reported to be up over last winter's numbers in Rowan County (FB). A single Gray Catbird was observed through December 13 at BPS (KC). In contrast, four Brown Thrashers wintered, one at Madisonville (JH), one in Ohio County (JB, PB), one in Grayson County (JP), and one in Rowan County (FB). Winter records of the

Water Pipit included a flock of 30 on the Otter Creek CBC on December 22 (BPB), but none could be found there in January (S); one at McEL on January 13, six at McEL and 35 at CHL on February 3, 30+ at McEL on February 17 (BPB), and 25-30+ at McEL on February 23 (m.ob.); about six birds were also present at Flaherty, Meade County on February 15 (RH). Cedar Waxwings were unusually scarce in most of the state (there were 1,694 fewer individuals this year on the CBC compared with last year). Loggerhead Shrike numbers were stable.

Warblers through Finches — Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarce which may in part be attributed to the scarcity of cedar berries. Although two Pine Warblers were recorded on the LBL CBC and one on the Calloway County CBC, none were noted later. An immature Prairie Warbler was reported on the Otter Creek CBC in Meade County along Highway 1238 on December 22 (BPB). An Ovenbird was observed in a parking lot off Preston Highway, Louisville, on December 15 (RH). A female plumaged Common Yellowthroat was reported on the Otter Creek CBC in Meade County on Fort Knox Reservation on December 22 (BPB). The only Savannah Sparrows reported were the small numbers on the reclaimed strip-mines in southern Ohio and eastern Muhlenberg counties in December and January (BPB). Fox Sparrows were in lower numbers than last winter, as were White-throated Sparrows. A Chipping Sparrow was seen at a feeder in Somerset, Pulaski County on December 9 (JEl). As usual, small numbers of Lapland Longspurs were observed during the period. Two blackbird roosts were found in Kentucky this winter: one with about a half-million blackbirds located in Clark County, and the other in Hardin County near Elizabethtown. Eight Red-winged Blackbirds and 15 Common Grackles were observed at a feeder in Morehead, Rowan County, on February 22 (FB); a male Brown-headed Cowbird was also recorded there on January 3 (FB). An adult male *Yellow-headed Blackbird* was discovered in suburban Elizabethtown on February 16 (BPB). Approximately 500 Rusty Blackbirds were with other blackbirds at LPew on December 2 (BPB, DC). Brewer's Blackbirds showed up in the vicinity of McEL and 50 were noted on January 13, smaller numbers on February 3, and probably five on February 23 (BPB); and at least one was observed at Flaherty, Meade County on February 26 (RH). A female Northern Oriole visited a feeder in Lexington, Fayette County from January 9-21 and was photographed (M. Sutton); although reported as a "Bullock's," it is more likely a "Baltimore" (the record is currently under review by the KBRC). Purple Finches were unusually scarce this winter and practically nonexistent at Glasgow (RS). Pine Siskins were also scarce all across the state; Calloway County was the only place having more than a few. American Goldfinches were present in good numbers. Few Evening Grosbeaks arrived this winter; there were two reports on December 11 at Valley Station in southwestern Jefferson County with one bird at one feeder and two at another (DS), a female at a Brownsville, Edmonson County feeder in late December (DB), and a male at a feeder in Murray, Calloway County on January 12-13 (WB); up to four birds were noted on several occasions between 13 January and 22 February in Morehead, Rowan County (FB); the CBCs also showed only a total of six birds on three counts. Nest building of the House Sparrow was noted as early as February 20 at Louisville (MS).

Errata — The date of the adult Bald Eagle on BWMA attended by a begging immature (Ky. Warbler 61:5, 1991) should be 3 August, not 31. The record of a flock of eight to ten Red Crossbills heard as they passed overhead in northern Jackson County near Sand Springs on November

29 (Ky. Warbler 67:9, 1991) should be deleted, at the request of the observer. The report of the five Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Jonathan Creek on September 3, 1990 (Ky. Warbler 67:7, 1990) should be changed to Honker Bay at the request of the observer.

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RETURN OF THE WOODBURN LAKES, 1989; PART I.

BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR. AND GARY BOGGS

When Dr. Gordon Wilson passed away in 1970, it not only marked the end of the life of one of Kentucky's foremost ornithologists, it also signified the end of an era spanning more than forty years of intense study of the well-known "transient" or "karst" lakes near Woodburn in southern Warren County. From 1929, when his first summary appeared in *The Wilson Bulletin*, until his last article summarizing observations at the lakes was published in *The Kentucky Warbler* in 1968, Dr. Wilson related his observations of waterbirds at these seasonally flooded areas in nearly two-dozen separate articles. A summary of observations for the 1972 season published by Dr. Herbert Shadowen (1972) represents the last major seasonal summary of observations to appear in *The Kentucky Warbler*. Since that time, only a few accounts of waterbird observations at the Woodburn lakes have been reported.

Although Dr. Wilson (1940) has more than adequately described the nature of the Woodburn lakes previously, a brief introduction is in order for those readers unfamiliar with the factors responsible for the presence of this unique situation. The Woodburn lakes are located in the Pennyroyal, a region of Kentucky characterized by extensive underground drainage due to the presence of a very soluble limestone bedrock. This "karst" topography is characterized by little or no surface drainage and many sinkholes and underground passages into which surface water drains directly into the subsurface. The two most well-known lakes, "Chaney" and "McElroy" (as well as many lesser known ones), form as a result of above-normal precipitation. These broad depressions lie below the elevation of much of the surrounding land, and as the subsurface water level rises during periods of heavy rainfall, these areas fill with water. While each lake is fed by one or a small group of major springs, each is also fed by numerous smaller ones. The waters may rise for several weeks after heavy rains. Likewise, the water exits these broad depressions through similar openings to the subsurface, and the lakes may take months to dry up since they are continually rejuvenated by the underground

springs as long as the ground water level remains above their lowest elevation. Both Chaney and McElroy Lakes vary widely in extent and duration from year to year, and they may not hold water at all some years. In order for the lakes to persist into summer, an unusually wet spring must occur, followed by near or above normal rainfall afterwards.

Only a few times during the 1900s has summer rainfall following an unusually wet spring been sufficient to allow the lakes to persist into the fall. In fact, in an article summarizing waterbird observations from 1950 (Wilson 1951), his best year ever at the lakes, Dr. Wilson says in closing, "If the lakes follow the usual cycles of high and low, it may be half a lifetime before any other such year as 1950 will come." Let it be known that Dr. Wilson was not only a fine student of ornithology, but also an adept prophet. For in 1989, nearly forty years after his best season, such a year came with both record rainfall and unsurpassed birding at the timeless transient lakes of Woodburn.

During the late winter and early spring of 1989, much of Kentucky received an abnormally large amount of rainfall. Through the first three months of 1989 Bowling Green recorded over 24 inches of precipitation (some 10 inches above normal), representing the fifth wettest January through March period on record (G. Conner, pers. comm.). This unusual period of excessive rainfall caused a rise in the local groundwater level, filling both Chaney and McElroy lakes to levels comparable to those recorded by Wilson in years like 1937 and 1950 (the seventh and fourth wettest first-quarters of a year on record, respectively (G. Conner, pers. comm.). Chaney Lake covered more than 250 acres during much of March while McElroy Lake covered at least 400 acres at the same time. Although the lakes receded gradually over the next few months, normal periods of rainfall helped them to persist through early summer. Both would have disappeared in mid-July had it not been for the highly unusual occurrence of more than 6.25 inches of rainfall within a two-day period 2-3 July. This rainfall caused the lakes to return to their late April levels, and thus assured their life into the early fall, apparently for only the third time since Dr. Wilson began his observations in the mid-1920's (1935 and 1950 being the others).

In 1989, waterbird study at the lakes was initiated in early February by Boggs. Palmer-Ball began visiting the lakes on 11 March, when waterfowl migration was already in full swing. From discussions about the lakes with local farmers, it was clear that the water began to rise in January, and subsequent to a period of heavy rainfall in late February, they rose to their maximum levels.

Through the months of February and March, waterfowl were quite numerous. During the peak of waterfowl migration in March, it was not uncommon to compile a list of 20 species of ducks and geese at the lakes. As of mid-April, many of the ducks had departed, although a peak count of an estimated 4-5,000 American Coots at McElroy 10-16 April was rather impressive.

Shorebird numbers built up slowly through April until suddenly during the last few days of the month, everything seemed to arrive at once. One of the highlights of the spring occurred during the weekend of 29-30 April when Palmer-Ball and a small group of KOS members visited the lakes and found several unusual species at McElroy Lake. In the span of less than an hour on 29 April, we observed a flock of 43 Willets accompanied by four Marbled Godwits, a Black-bellied Plover, at least a dozen Lesser Golden-Plovers (some nearly in full breeding plumage), and a flock of 22 Long-billed Dowitchers. On the following day, Palmer-Ball

and Don Parker returned, and although the Willets and godwits had departed, three Western Sandpipers molting into breeding plumage and an Eared Grebe in nearly full breeding plumage were observed.

The month of May saw the arrival of more shorebird species and several notable occurrences of gulls and terns. In addition, the first nesting record of Hooded Merganser for south-central Kentucky was recorded at Chaney Lake in late May. Shorebirds continued to be abundant through the month, and on 20 May, a group of ten observers tallied an impressive list of 18 species of shorebirds including a Red-necked Phalarope, a first for Kentucky in spring.

In early June an amazing variety of thirteen species of waterfowl were still present on McElroy, and by mid-June many families of Blue-winged Teal and Mallards were present. During the month, a few very unusual records of other waterbirds were made, including observations of Lesser Golden-Plover and Common Snipe. In addition, an incredible variety of ten species of waterfowl remained at McElroy throughout the month!

In early July McElroy almost completely dried up, but a two-day, 6.25+ inch period of rainfall on 2-3 July swelled both lakes back to their late April levels. Waterfowl dispersed, and some species could not be relocated. By early July shorebirds were returning, and as the lakes receded through August and early September, perhaps the most spectacular concentration of shorebirds ever witnessed in the state developed. During late August and early September, such unusual shorebirds as the Piping Plover, Red Knot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Red-necked Phalarope were observed. By early September, McElroy was receding quickly, and large changes in its extent were visible even from day to day. On 10 September, several of us were presented with the most unusual experience of viewing 25 species of shorebirds at McElroy; of these, 22 were clearly in view from one spot! By 12 September, McElroy had all but disappeared, and the only water that remained was in a drainage ditch running through the now completely exposed fields. On that date Palmer-Ball and Don Parker were able to capture a female Lesser Scaup and a Horned Grebe (both with injured wings) that had been present on the lake throughout the summer. Both birds were released unharmed on nearby permanent bodies of water. By mid-September, only a few species were still present on the drying mud at McElroy, but a respectable concentration remained at Chaney where the water was slower to disappear. On our last visit to Chaney on 7 October, a few remaining pools of water were still filled with good numbers of more common shorebirds and dabbling ducks.

One might ask upon what food source this myriad of waterbirds subsisted while they stayed at McElroy and Chaney lakes, especially since their presence is of such unpredictable and temporary nature. Food for this great number of waterbird species was almost as varied as the diversity of birds themselves. Because the underground spring water feeding the lakes is relatively warm, aquatic plants and algae begin growing profusely, even in late winter when temperatures are still quite cold. During the late winter and spring, many of the birds also grazed on winter wheat growing in fields partially inundated by the waters. It is doubtless that a certain amount of unharvested grain from the previous year's soybean and corn crops was also present.

As the lake levels dropped in late spring and summer, a variety of native plants took hold on large portions of the receding shorelines. Dense mats of spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) with scattered patches of smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.) water-plantain (*Alisma subcordatum*), water-

primrose (*Ludwigia* sp.), and watergrass (*Echinochloa* sp.) grew up on the exposed flats surrounding both lakes. Once the water receded totally, scattered patches of coontail (*Ceratophyllum* sp.), water naiad (*Najas* sp.), and pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.) were exposed on the muddy flats.

Aquatic animal life was also abundant. Certain aquatic invertebrates are quick to colonize such temporary waters, and some waterfowl and most of the shorebirds utilized this resource. Two small species of aquatic insects, a back-swimmer bug (Family Notonectidae) and a water boatman (Family Corixidae) were especially abundant in the shallow pools in late summer, as well as a species of aquatic snail (Family Physidae). Mosquito-like midges of the Family Chironomidae were also abundant as both larvae in the bottom of the lakes and as emerging adults. The latter were the primary food for the swallows and Black Terns. Although the lakes are well-known for their populations of the small, semi-blind Spring cavefish (*Chologaster agassizi*), none of these could be found, although tens of thousands of young black bullhead catfish (*Ictalurus melas*) were found stranded in isolated pools and in the ditch running through the middle of McElroy on 12 September. These fish were apparently the primary food source for the grebes, herons, cormorants, mergansers and Osprey.

In general aspect the lakes have changed little throughout the recent past, although clearing of surrounding forest land has progressed at a steady rate. For the most part, land use surrounding the lakes has been, and continues to be, dominated by row-crop agriculture with lesser amounts of hay and pasture land. Use of the fields inundated by the lakes is dictated by the unpredictable rising and falling of the ground water. The water that collects in the lakes has nowhere to go, and once in place must recede naturally, so that some years crops may not be planted at all. Although more and more forest surrounding the lakes has been cleared through the years, a large tract of mature timber is still present at Chaney, providing cover for species like the Wood Duck. In contrast, the stark openness surrounding McElroy may actually serve to enhance its attractiveness to many migratory waterbirds. While it is doubtless that clearing of some areas has altered the habitat negatively for some species, the overall effect seems to have had little impact.

The nature of the vegetation covering and surrounding the lakes at the time of settlement is unclear, but it is highly possible that the periodic inundation of the lower areas in combination with fires (either occurring naturally or set by native Indians) may have kept prairie grasses and herbaceous wetland plants in dominance, thus providing for an abundance of food for migratory waterbirds. In contrast to the relatively recent development of waterbird habitat on the state's reservoirs and management areas, this habitat (much like the Falls of the Ohio) has been present for many generations of waterbird use. This may explain the aura of tradition one perceives from the surprising abundance and diversity of birds that can be encountered during a good season at the lakes. As vast flocks of waterfowl and shorebirds arrive and depart, or rise from the shallows or shores and wheel in unison, one is overwhelmed by an impression that it is an instinctual attraction that has drawn these birds to the lakes. On the other hand, the use of these areas by so many birds may do nothing more than illustrate the adaptability and opportunistic nature of waterbird migration. More likely than not, it is a combination of these factors that makes for such a unique situation.

In many ways, the season of 1989 was quite similar to that reported by Wilson for 1950. Perhaps the most striking contrast was the lack of herons and egrets in 1989 as compared to 1950. Wilson reported eight

species of herons and egrets in 1950, some in considerable numbers. While we observed most of these species in 1989, observations of most were infrequent and number were quite low in comparison. The effect of widespread DDT use had not taken its toll on bird populations at the time of Wilson's earlier observations, and wading bird numbers remain relatively low today as they continue to rebound from low levels observed in the 1950s and '60s. In terms of other species, waterfowl variety and numbers were quite comparable to earlier years except for the unique array of summering birds observed in 1989. The combined shorebird seasons of 1989 were by far the best ever documented from any single location in the state, and they will probably remain a standard for comparison and recollection for many years to come. Unfortunately the lakes dried up before fall shorebird migration was complete and the fall diving duck migration began. Because of this, we were not able to obtain good late dates for shorebirds as Wilson did in 1950, nor were we able to see how diving ducks might respond to the presence of the lakes in fall.

Between the two of us, in excess of 80 trips were made between the dates of 3 February and 7 October 1989. Coverage of the lakes on these trips varied tremendously from cursory checks of just one to comprehensive visits of both. Due to several factors, McElroy received most of our attention, especially from late April through mid-June and mid-August through mid-September, when the numbers and variety of birds there were so great that we often found it difficult to make ourselves leave to check Chaney! Never was there a day when something new was not discovered; even during a given day, numbers and variety could change as migrants arrived and departed. In all, we observed 73 species of waterbirds at the two lakes in 1989. This represents considerably more than the 60 species Wilson and others recorded during his all-time best year of 1950.

Reported herein is a summary of the observations made by us, or by us and others in our presence. It is doubtless that at least a few other noteworthy sightings were made of which we are not aware. When seemingly pertinent, observations made in 1989 are compared to occurrences and/or abundances as reported by Dr. Wilson, mostly in a summary of *Birds of South-Central Kentucky* (Wilson 1962) and a supplement to the same (Wilson 1969). Also, a few observations are referred to photographs either accompanying this article or submitted to Anne L. Stamm, editor of the Seasonal Reports feature of *The Kentucky Warbler*. Information contained herein occasionally differs from that previously reported in *The Kentucky Warbler* Seasonal Reports, Vol. 65 (3 & 4) and Vol. 66 (1), primarily due to previously unreported sightings supplied by Boggs. Ages were noted for many shorebirds observed during the fall and are indicated as follows: a=adult, j=juvenile, u=unaged. This information is included due to its pertinence to an understanding of the timing of peaks of migration for the various species. Other abbreviations used include ca.=approximately, MCNP=Mammoth Cave National Park, and sc Ky=south-central Kentucky (as defined by Wilson 1962).

COMMON LOON. *Gavia immer*. Our only record was of a single bird observed by Boggs on McElroy on 22 April. Wilson (1962) regarded this species as "usually rare", although he seemed to record loons fairly regularly at the lakes during good years.

PIED-BILLED GREBE. *Podilymbus podiceps*. This fairly common grebe was present throughout the entire period of study (mostly at McElroy), with up to ca. 30 birds (28 March) there in spring and 10-15 birds (27 August-2 September) there during fall migration. Single individuals were observed in fall until 12 September on McElroy and 16

September on Chaney. Several birds remained on McElroy throughout summer, but nesting was not confirmed. The appearance of a stripe-headed immature at McElroy on 4 July was interpreted as originating from another breeding area although the possibility of nesting there could not be ruled out. Wilson (1940, 1962) found seven nests of this species at McElroy in 1927 and reported summering during a few other years.

HORNED GREBE. *Podiceps auritus*. Small numbers of Horned Grebes were present on McElroy from 11 March through early May with a peak count of 15-20 birds there 25 March-1 April. A single bird with an injured wing remained at the lake through the summer and was seen on every visit. On 12 September, Palmer-Ball and Don Parker were successful in capturing the bird in the small ditch running through the nearly dried up fields. The bird was released on the Ohio River at Louisville where it was thought that it should be able to persist even if it could never fly again.

EARED GREBE. *Podiceps nigricollis*. In 1989, McElroy was host to a number of species considered very rare in occurrence in Kentucky, and several species generally seen in Kentucky only a few times every decade were observed there on more than one occasion during the year. One such species was the Eared Grebe. Single birds were observed on 30 April and 14 May and presumed to be different individuals since none were seen on several dates in between. Both birds were in breeding plumage, the latter being particularly immaculate in appearance. On 27 August, two birds in non-breeding plumage were studied closely and compared with the summering Horned Grebe, which was then molting out of breeding plumage. This rather early "fall" date is apparently representative of a small, but perceptible movement of this species that has become slightly more prevalent in the midwest over the past decade (B. Peterjohn, pers. comm.). Wilson (1962, 1969) did not report this species from sc Ky, but 1-2 birds were observed at McElroy in mid-May 1984 (Mason 1985).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Cormorants were present at McElroy on several dates. During the spring migration, a flock of 32 birds was observed resting on the lake on 20 February, 11 birds were seen there on 23 April, and a single bird was present on 29 April. In late summer, a single cormorant was observed 3, 6 August and on all but one visit to the lake 27 August-8 September. Wilson (1962, 1969) noted only ten records from sc Ky. This species has increased in Kentucky as a transient over the past decade, and the relatively large number of observations in 1989 can probably be attributed to this increase.

LEAST BITTERN. *Ixobrychus exilis*. One bird was seen perched on a flooded farm fence at McElroy on 16 July. This bird was considered to be a post-breeding transient, even though the date was rather early for a "fall" migrant. Wilson (1940) listed one 1939 record from McElroy and regarded the species as very rare in sc Ky and possibly nesting only at MCNP (Wilson 1962).

GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias*. Small numbers of Great Blue Herons were observed at both lakes in spring and from late summer into fall. Our peak counts were six birds at McElroy on 19 August and 10 September, and four birds at Chaney on 3, 13 August. On 7 October, three birds were still present at Chaney. These numbers are comparable to those reported by Wilson (1951) in 1950.

GREAT EGRET. *Casmerodius albus*. At McElroy, a single Great Egret came to roost with a flock of Cattle Egrets on the evening of 29 April. Otherwise, the only sightings were of single birds at Chaney on 23

May and 6 August. Wilson (1962) regarded this species as "sometimes common when the lakes remain into late summer.

SNOWY EGRET. *Egretta thula*. A single bird was observed at McElroy on 20 May and at Chaney on 23 May (probably same bird). Wilson (1951, 1962) recorded this species at the lakes on a number of occasions, including 1950 when up to 20 were present.

CATTLE EGRET. *Bubulcus ibis*. A flock of 33 birds came to roost at McElroy on the evening of 29 April. Otherwise, the only sighting was of a single bird there on 20 May. Wilson (1962, 1969) noted this species in the vicinity of the lakes on a few occasions, including the first state record on 9 November 1960. Since that time the Cattle Egret has become regular as a transient and summer resident in the state.

GREEN-BACKED HERON. *Butorides striatus*. Somewhat surprisingly, this species was not abundant at the lakes in 1989. Only a few birds were seen in spring and summer (mostly at Chaney), but as many as nine birds were present at McElroy during mid-August and as many as seven birds were seen at Chaney during August and September. Wilson (1962) regarded this species as "abundant in late summer when the lakes remain." We are not sure why Green-backed Herons were not as numerous in 1989; it is possible that reduced cover, especially at McElroy where very few trees remain, was responsible for the decrease.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON. *Nycticorax nycticorax*. The only records were for single adult birds observed at McElroy on 29 June and 13 August. This is another species of heron that Wilson (1962) reported in much greater frequency and abundance than we observed in 1989.

TUNDRA SWAN. *Cygnus columbianus*. Boggs observed a group of four birds (3 adults, 1 immature) at McElroy 20-25 February. Wilson (1962, 1969) did not list this species from sc Ky, but Shadowen (1972) observed the species at McElroy in 1972.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. *Anser albifrons*. A flock of 19 birds was present at McElroy 18 March-1 April representing one of only a few records of this rare transient east of Land Between the Lakes and apparently the first for sc Ky.

SNOW GOOSE. *Chen caerulescens*. This relatively uncommon species was observed on a few dates during spring migration from 28 February to 1 April with a peak count of 61 birds (40 Snows/21 Blues) 28 February-8 March. Wilson (1962) recorded this species on a number of dates through the years, most often in spring, but occasionally in fall.

CANADA GOOSE. *Branta canadensis*. This species was observed sporadically throughout the year. Small numbers were present from early February through early April with a peak count of 15 birds in early March. In mid-June, a brood of five downy young being attended by a pair of adults appeared, apparently providing a first local nesting record. This family group remained on the lake until the young could fly in late July. During August and early September, up to 26 geese were observed on McElroy and then on Chaney until 7 October.

WOOD DUCK. *Aix sponsa*. Woodies were present virtually throughout the period of study. In spring, small numbers were observed from 28 February through May (mostly at Chaney). Broods of small young were observed on both lakes in late May and June but were most prevalent on Chaney where the woodland provides better habitat for this species. Several dozen were present on Chaney in late August while small numbers appeared periodically on McElroy through mid-August.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL. *Anas crecca*. This small dabbler was present on both lakes in spring from 11 March to late April with peak counts of 12 birds at McElroy on 15 March and 10 birds at Chaney on 23 April. Three males lingered at McElroy through mid-May and a single male was last observed there on 1 June, representing a new spring departure date for Kentucky. At least one bird returned to McElroy as early as 27 August where a few were seen until the lake dried up in mid-September, and four birds were still present at Chaney on 7 October.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK. *Anas rubripes*. Black ducks were present on both lakes in spring from 3 February to 30 March with a peak count of ca. 100 birds at McElroy on 21 February. In addition, a bird appeared at McElroy on 20 May followed by a pair of birds later in May (these individuals probably came from nearby smaller bodies of water that finally dried up). The same birds (or others) were seen off and on through 10 September at McElroy and until 7 October at Chaney.

MALLARD. *Anas platyrhynchos*. This species was present throughout the year until the lakes dried up in September and October. Mallards nested prolifically on McElroy and in smaller numbers on Chaney, with over a dozen broods seen on the former and at least two on the latter. Peak counts occurred in late summer with more than 200 birds observed on both lakes in late August and September.

NORTHERN PINTAIL. *Anas acuta*. This early spring migrant was present on both lakes 21 February to 1 April with a peak of 22 birds at McElroy on 1 March. Two birds returned to McElroy on the unusually early date of 8 August where they were observed through 22 August. This is a duck that Wilson (1962) regarded as "common to abundant" when the lakes were large in early spring.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. *Anas discors*. This common dabbler was present throughout the year once the first migrants arrived in spring. A few males were first observed on 18 March, after which numbers built up to a relatively unspectacular peak of 100+ birds at McElroy 7-23 April. Numbers declined during May, but at the end of the month several dozen birds, including at least two broods of downy young, were still present on McElroy. During June broods of young were scattered across the lake, with perhaps more than 200 birds representing a dozen or more family groups. Although not confirmed, breeding was probably also successful at Chaney. During August numbers began to build up at McElroy as fall migrants supplemented the nesting population, and during early September some 400-500 or more birds graced the shallows of the drying lake and wheeled overhead in spectacular flocks when frightened. On 12 September, a late brood of five or six nearly full-grown young was still present along the ditch running through the middle of the fields. By 16 September all had departed from the muddy flats at McElroy, but a few birds were present at Chaney as late as 7 October. In addition to breeding at the two well-known lakes, the species nested at a similar "transient" lake several miles to the southwest in Simpson County, where two downy broods of young being accompanied by females were seen on 6 June. This observation provided the first nesting record of Blue-winged Teal for Simpson county. Wilson (1962) reported nesting on four previous occasions at the lakes.

NORTHERN SHOVELER. *Anas clypeata*. Shovelers were present on both lakes during spring migration from 21 February into early May with a peak count of ca. 200 birds on McElroy 28 February-8 March. Surprising numbers remained on the lake throughout May with at least a dozen birds present during the first week and 3-4 pairs still present at the end of the

month. Two males were observed on 6 June, and a pair of birds lingered there until at least 13 June. Four birds in female/immature plumage reappeared on McElroy on 17 July, and the species was seen on both lakes on 22 July (1 bird at Chaney, 3 at McElroy). Small numbers (<10) were present through early September, and a peak count of 14 birds was made at McElroy on 12 September, the last day on which much water was present there. Due to the lack of observations between mid-June and mid-July, it is unclear whether or not shovellers summered in the vicinity, but the mid-July birds were observed ca. six weeks earlier than fall migrants have ever been reported in Kentucky. The heavy rain of early July caused many smaller ponds to refill, and some waterfowl apparently dispersed off the main lakes and could not be relocated. For this reason, we could not be sure that some species, including the shoveler, actually summered. It would seem that even the possibility of the species nesting at McElroy in 1989 could not be ruled out. Wilson (1952, 1962) reported this species in good numbers at the lakes including an impressive peak of ca. 1,000 birds in 1952.

GADWALL. *Anas strepera*. This species was present on both lakes in spring from 21 February through early May with a peak count of ca. 100 birds at McElroy 22-24 February. Some 6-8 birds lingered at McElroy through mid-May and at least a pair and an additional male remained through May and summered on McElroy through mid-July. Boggs last observed the species there on 20 July, but he again observed 1-2 Gadwalls at McElroy 13-20 August. It is unclear whether or not these latter birds were the summering individuals or early fall migrants. Curiously, the Gadwall is a species that Wilson (1962) regarded as rare in sc Ky. The reason for the discrepancy between his and our observations is unknown.

AMERICAN WIGEON. *Anas americana*. Wigeons were present on both lakes in spring from 20 February through early April with a rather impressive peak count of at least 300 birds on McElroy on 25 March. After the peak, numbers decreased to 125+ by 1 April, and at least two males summered on McElroy through early July when the big rains came. Boggs last observed a male on McElroy on 19 July, although it was suspected that the species must have remained in the area, perhaps on smaller ponds that refilled in early July. The wigeon is a species that Wilson (1962, 1969) reported at the Woodburn lakes in good numbers in spring, but never into summer.

CANVASBACK. *Aythya valisineria*. This declining species of diving duck was observed for only a brief period at McElroy during spring migration, 11-18 March (up to 3 birds). These observations are consistent with Wilson's who regarded the species as rare in sc Ky (1962).

REDHEAD. *Aythya americana*. Relatively small numbers of Redheads were present on both lakes during spring migration from 21 February through mid-April with a peak count of at least 50 birds present on McElroy on 11 March. A pair of birds and an additional male lingered at McElroy through 14 May providing a relatively late departure date. Wilson (1962) reported this species lingering into mid-June on one occasion.

RING-NECKED DUCK. *Aythya collaris*. This species was present on both lakes in spring from 8 March through mid-April with peak counts of ca. 100 birds at McElroy and ca. 300 birds at Chaney, both on 11 March. A male lingered throughout May and then summered on McElroy until it dried up in mid-September (seen flying reluctantly from the remaining ditch on 12 September).

GREATER SCAUP. *Aythya marila*. This uncommon diving duck

was positively identified only 11-19 March (1 male at Chaney) and 1-15 March (up to 5 birds at McElroy). Wilson (1962) regarded this species as rare in sc Ky and reported it only occasionally, even in good years.

LESSER SCAUP. *Aythya affinis*. Good numbers of Lesser Scaup were present on both lakes during spring migration from 1 March through mid-April with a peak count of ca. 200 birds on McElroy 11-25 March and 150 birds on Chaney on 19 March. Some 10-12 birds lingered at McElroy through mid-May and two pairs lingered until the end of the month. Throughout the rest of summer, at least a pair of birds summered on McElroy until early September. On 12 September, Don Parker and Palmer-Ball captured the injured female (the male apparently had finally moved on) and released it nearby on Three Springs Lake.

COMMON GOLDENEYE. *Bucephala clangula*. Goldeneyes were present on both lakes (but primarily McElroy) during spring migration from 28 February through early April with a peak count of ca. 50 birds on McElroy 1-8 March. A female lingered on McElroy and a small pond nearby until at least 30 April.

BUFFLEHEAD. *Bucephala albeola*. Fairly good numbers of Buffleheads were present on both lakes during spring migration from 8 March through mid-April with a peak count of ca. 75 birds at McElroy on 25 March. After the departure of a few lingering birds in late April, a single female or young male, apparently with an injured wing, summered on the lake until about 2 September when fresh remains of it (including feathers) were found along the shore, indicating that a predator had just recently captured and eaten it.

HOODED MERGANSER. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. Small numbers of Hooded Mergansers were observed on both lakes during spring migration from 1 March into early May with peak counts of only four birds at McElroy on 1 March and 5 May. A single first-year male (unknown if injured) summered on McElroy until it dried up in mid-September (last seen on the ditch on 10 September). On 27 May, a brood of five half-grown young accompanied by a female was observed on Chaney, providing a first breeding record for this region of the state. Perhaps this same family group was observed on McElroy on 19 June (3 or 4 female/immature plumaged birds).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS. *Mergus serrator*. A few Red-breasted Mergansers were present on McElroy during spring migration from 8 March to 7 May (2 females on latter) with a peak count of 15 birds on McElroy on 11 March. In addition, a lingering female was observed by Boggs at McElroy 29-30 May.

RUDDY DUCK. *Oxyura jamaicensis*. This species was observed on McElroy during spring migration from 11 March through early May with a peak count of ca. 60 birds there on 10 April. A group of at least five birds (4 male, 1 female) lingered on the lake through the end of May and a pair was last observed there on 9 June. Boggs also observed 1-2 birds at McElroy 17-20 July, although because of the lack of sightings in the interim, it is unclear whether or not these were the same birds as were present in early June.

SORA. *Porzana carolina*. Single birds were observed foraging along thickly-vegetated margins of McElroy on 5 May (Palmer-Ball) and 15 August (Boggs).

AMERICAN COOT. *Fulica americana*. This common species was present in large numbers on both lakes during spring migration from 11

March through late April with a peak count of ca. 4-5,000 birds estimated at McElroy 10-16 April. Numbers quickly declined through the latter half of April, but several hundred birds were still present on McElroy in early May (350 counted on 7 May). At least a half-dozen birds remained into early June, and at least three birds summered on McElroy, the last of which was observed there on 12 September. In addition, a bird seen on Chaney 13-16 August indicated possible summering there. Neither nesting nor any evidence of the possibility of such was observed on either lake. In previous years when water persisted through the summer. Wilson (1962) found nesting attempts at McElroy, but with a lack of marshy vegetation at the lake in 1989, it could be that nesting was not attempted.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. *Pluvialis squatarola*. This uncommon plover was present on McElroy during spring migration from 29 April (1 bird) to 27 May (3 birds) with a peak of at least a dozen birds (most in fine breeding plumage) on 20 May. During fall migration, single adults were observed at McElroy 17-22 August and 8-10 September. While Wilson (1962) recorded the Black-bellied Plover on numerous occasions in spring, he listed only one fall record from the lakes.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER. *Pluvialis dominica*. This graceful shorebird was observed mostly at McElroy during spring migration from 29 April (ca. 12 birds, also the peak count) to 23 May (1 bird). Most of these birds were in beautiful breeding plumage. Of considerable surprise was the observation of a bird in non-breeding plumage feeding along the shore of McElroy on 13 June. This represents a unique record for Kentucky, lying midway between the normal spring departure and fall arrival dates for the species in the state. Golden-Plovers turned up in surprising numbers at McElroy during fall migration, as well. The first adult appeared on 6 September. On 12 September the first juveniles (3) appeared with ca. 25 adults, and on 16 September an impressive flock of 42 birds (32a, 10j) was observed on the muddy flats at McElroy with an additional 15-20 birds in a field nearby. This represents the largest number ever to be reported from Kentucky in fall. Ten birds (1a, 9j) were present on Chaney as late as 7 October. These observations apparently represent the first fall records for the lakes of a shorebird Wilson (1962, 1969) regarded as rare in the region and had reported only once before in fall in sc Ky.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. This small plover was observed in good numbers at both lakes during spring migration from 23 April (1 bird on a pond near McElroy) to 1 June (5 birds at McElroy) and 6 June (1 bird at McElroy) with a peak of 75+ birds at McElroy 5-14 May. On 29 May, a bird with a badly broken wing was caught at McElroy and taken to the Louisville Zoo for possible rehabilitation. Semipalmated Plovers were again observed at both lakes in fall from 22 July (1a at Chaney) to 16 September (6u at McElroy, 4u at Chaney), with a peak of 35-40 birds (mostly juveniles) at McElroy on 8 September).

PIPING PLOVER. *Charadrius melodus*. This rare transient was present at McElroy on several dates during fall migration with a single adult observed on 20 August, three unaged birds present on 21 August, and two juveniles present on 22 August. Also, a juvenile was present again 8-10 September. These observations apparently represent the first fall records for sc Ky, since Wilson (1962) reported the species only in spring.

KILLDEER. *Charadrius vociferus*. This common plover was present throughout the year. Large numbers apparently nested in the farm fields surrounding McElroy where Boggs found six active nests in June. Numbers were hard to keep up with, but 200 or more birds seemed to be present

on most visits from mid-summer until the lakes dried up in September and October. Throughout later summer and fall, a strikingly beautiful partial albino Killdeer with nearly entirely white plumage was seen at McElroy by many observers.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS. *Tringa melanoleuca*. This large shorebird was observed on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was seen at McElroy from 25 March (2 birds) to 29 May (1 bird) with a peak count of 5-10 birds there on 29 April (1-5 birds seen 10 April through 14 May at Chaney). In fall the species was recorded from 4 July (3a at McElroy) to 12 September (3u at McElroy) and 7 October (4j at Chaney) with a peak count of 8-10 birds at McElroy on 6 August. Wilson (1940, 1951) apparently observed this species in greater numbers in spring with representative peak counts of 50-75 in the 1930s and 20-25 in 1950.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS. *Tringa flavipes*. This common shorebird was observed on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring the species was first seen on 19 March (2 birds at both lakes) then continuously through early June (at least 1 bird still at McElroy) with peak counts of 75+ birds at McElroy 29-30 April and 100+ birds at McElroy 5 and 14 May. Throughout June, at least one Lesser Yellowlegs was observed on every visit to McElroy, although summering was not confirmed. By 29 June, at least a dozen birds had already returned to McElroy on southward migration, and the species was recorded continuously through 16 September (5u) at McElroy and 7 October (25+u) at Chaney. Peak counts during the season included 100+ birds at McElroy throughout August and early September, 150+ birds at McElroy on 12 September, and 85 birds at Chaney on 16 September (probably including many birds from McElroy that moved after the water disappeared there). In contrast to the preceding species, our peak counts for this species compared more favorably to Wilson's (1940, 1951).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Tringa solitaria*. This fairly common shorebird was observed on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was observed from 23 April (6 birds at McElroy, 4 birds at Chaney) to 27 May (1 bird at McElroy) with a peak count of ca. 20 birds at McElroy on 29 April. During fall migration the species was recorded from 4 July (1 at McElroy) to 16 September (1 at McElroy) and 7 October (1 at Chaney) with peak counts of 20-25+ birds at McElroy on 6 August and 15 birds at Chaney on 13 August. Being a denizen of smaller bodies of water, Solitary Sandpipers were also observed during spring and fall migration on numerous farm ponds and smaller flooded areas in the vicinity of the two main lakes.

WILLET. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*. On 29 April a flock of 43 birds was observed resting and feeding at McElroy by a group of KOS members. This apparently represents the largest flock ever to be reported in the state and interestingly occurred on the same day that ca. 40 were seen at nearby Barren River Reservoir (different birds).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*. This common sandpiper was observed at both lakes during both spring and fall migration, as well as throughout the summer at McElroy. Individuals were present in spring from 23 April (1 bird at Chaney; 3 at McElroy) through the end of May (at least 2 birds still at McElroy) with a peak of ca. 15 birds at each of the lakes on 14 May. Afterwards, at least 3-4 birds remained at McElroy throughout June where courtship flights (early to mid-June) and copulation (6 June) were observed. Unfortunately, further evidence of nesting was not obtained. The sudden rise in the lake level in early July may have

flooded any active nests. Similar numbers remained through late July when the first fall migrants began to arrive. By 6 August, at least five birds were at McElroy, and small numbers were observed through 16 September at McElroy and 7 October at Chaney. A peak count of 6-8+ birds was made at McElroy on 4 September. Confirmed nesting evidence apparently also alluded Wilson (1962), who regarded the Spotted Sandpiper as "possibly" a summer resident at the lakes.

UPLAND SANDPIPER. *Bartramia longicauda*. This rare to uncommon shorebird could not be found in the vicinity in spring but was observed on at least three dates in fall as follows: 28 July, two birds along the shore of Chaney; 2 September, one bird heard well and seen briefly flying overhead at McElroy; and 10 September, two birds seen and heard calling as they passed overhead at McElroy.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING — APRIL 26-28, 1991

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 68th annual spring meeting at Carter Caves State Resort Park on April 26-28, 1991. Virginia Kingsolver, President, opened the Friday evening session with a welcome to members and guests. Lee McNeely, Vice-president, introduced the evening program speakers. John Tierney presented The Natural History of the Carter Caves Area. Fred Busroe presented an update on the birds utilizing the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery. The evening program concluded with a photo-quiz of slides provided by members. An informal social hour followed the program.

The weather was mostly clear and warm for the Saturday morning field trips. One group birded the Cascade Cave and Box Canyon area, two groups remained in the lodge area and one group visited the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery.

The Board of Directors met at 3:30 p.m. in the lodge.

After a buffet dinner in the lodge dining room, the group assembled for the Saturday evening program. Virginia Kingsolver introduced Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr. who presented The Birds and Wildlife of Venezuela for Dr. Herbert Clay who was ill. Dr. Clay's slides were excellent.

The Board recommended the following change in the Bylaws for new dues structure: Article II, Section A. The annual dues for Active Membership shall be \$8.00, for Contributing Membership shall be \$15.00, for Student Membership \$4.00. The fee for Life Membership shall be \$100.00. The fee for Family Membership for an Active or Contributing Member shall be \$2.00 in addition to that member's regular dues; the fee for Family Membership for a Life Member shall be \$2.00 annually, to continue for the life of that member. The membership passed the new dues structure.

A statement from the Board was made establishing a Kentucky Rare Bird Alert hotline.

The weather was warm and sunny with early morning fog for the Sunday field trips. One group met at the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery and others birded in the park area.

Fred Busroe compiled the bird list which totaled 114 species including the Sunday morning count. Fifty-four people registered for the meeting.

—FRED M. BUSROE, Recording Secretary.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING AT CARTER CAVES STATE PARK

- ANCHORAGE: Dr. and Mrs. Burt Monroe, Mark Monroe
BEREA: Art and Tina Ricketts
BOWLING GREEN: Blaine Ferrell, Herb and Jacky Shadowen
BUCKHORN: Eileen Sandlin
BURLINGTON: Kathy and Joe Caminiti, Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely,
Becky McNeely, Tom and Karen Stephens
CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver
COX'S CREEK: Dona Coates
DANVILLE: Neil and Ginny Eklund
FRANKFORT: Deb White
HAZARD: Dr. Dennis Sandlin
LEXINGTON: Mike and Jean Flynn, Jim and Gerry Williams
LOUISVILLE: Kathryn Clay, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Mr. and Mrs. F. W.
Stamm, Mike and Tanya Stinson, Don Summerfield
MACEO: Burt and Millie Powell
MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe, Les Meade, Brian Reeder
MURRAY: Dr. Clell Peterson
OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Marilee and
Wendell Thompson
PROSPECT: Fred and Coleen Mansmith
SOMERSET: Gay and Jim Hodges
STANLEY: Tom and Anne Lee Stevenson
UTICA: Tony and Brenda Eaden
BORDEN, IN: Scottie and Chester Theiss

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, 1991

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Carter Caves State Resort Park lodge and at the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery (indicated by an asterisk) included: Pied-billed Grebe*, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose*, Wood Duck, Mallard*, Blue-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser*, Turkey Vulture, Osprey*, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper*, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull*, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher*, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow*, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow*, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher,

European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler*, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole*, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 112 species. Additional species observed on Sunday field trips were Black Vultures and Least Sandpipers, bringing the weekend total to 114 species.

FIELD NOTE

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD FOR PACIFIC LOON

On December 15, 1990, while participating on the Land Between the Lakes Christmas Bird Count, we found a Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) on the west side of Kentucky Lake, approximately a mile south of Kentucky Dam Village State Park. The Pacific Loon was observed with fifteen to twenty Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) scattered loosely on the lake in ones, twos and threes, and a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

The Pacific Loon was rather distinctive in appearance. The forehead, crown, and entire nape were a medium gray, darkest on the forehead and on the sides of the neck. In comparison, the back was blackish, contrasting sharply with the lighter gray of the nape. This feature was conspicuous, even at a great distance. The back was distinctly marked with a "hatching" of squarish lighter edgings, making for a very noticeable pattern at closer range. The underparts, including the throat and foreneck, were white. The distinction between the gray of the hindneck and white of the foreneck was very abrupt and enhanced by the darkness of the side of the neck. Running across the throat was a complete, narrow band of gray, or "chin strap", noticeable only at close range. We estimated that the bird was approximately three-fourths the size of nearby Common Loons. The bill was rather straight, lightish gray in color, and not as heavy as those of nearby Common Loons. It was almost always held roughly horizontal to the water.

The Pacific Loon seemed to associate casually with the other loons on the lake. It usually did not forage close to shore, seeming to prefer more open (and perhaps deeper) water. On December 16, 1990, Joe Tom Erwin, Carl Mowery, Jr., and Clell Peterson viewed the Pacific Loon in the same vicinity.

On December 19, 1990, Palmer-Ball returned to Kentucky Lake and was successful in relocating the loon, as well as obtaining a series of photographs of it (see cover). The only distinguishing field mark viewed in the field but not shown in the photographs was the "vent strap," a narrow band of gray extending across the vent from either flank. Although usually impossible or quite difficult to see, the vent strap was clearly

viewed on one occasion when the loon raised out of the water to exercise its wings.

The presence of both an obvious chin strap and vent strap apparently serve sufficiently to distinguish the Pacific Loon from the very similar Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) of the Old World. These two species were formerly treated as two races of the holartic "Arctic Loon," and only recently were split into separate species.

Apparently the Pacific Loon has been overlooked to some extent in the eastern United States. Subsequent to the publication of the latest series of field guides and other resources, it seems that observers are now more aware of both the possibility of the occurrence of the species in the eastern United States and the characters distinguishing it from other loons. Documented records for the species are added in the midwest annually, and it would appear that we might expect to encounter the Pacific Loon in Kentucky again.

— BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Louisville, and DONALD PARKER, Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. WELCOMES PEABODY COAL COMPANY

The Kentucky Ornithological Society is pleased to welcome Peabody Coal Company as its first corporate member. A special thanks goes to Ms. Joyce Fitzgerald, Manager Post Mine Lands, for her interest in K.O.S. and the activities of members that visit the post mine lands in Muhlenberg and Ohio counties. Please send information regarding interesting observations of birds and other wildlife made on Peabody Coal Company lands to the editor in order that it can be forwarded to Ms. Fitzgerald. Thank you.

NEW BIRD ALERT SERVICE FOR KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Rare Bird Alert hotline is already in service at (502) 894-9538. Mike Stinson will be updating the tapes with your reports of unusual bird sightings from around the state. This is a K.O.S. project.

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST SALE

Another printing of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Anne L. Stamm, and Brainard L. Palmer-Ball, Jr., is for sale at a reduced price of \$4.00 (\$3.00 to K.O.S. members). All Kentucky residents should add 6% sales tax, plus shipping (\$1.05 for the 1st book plus 50¢ for each additional book). Foreign customers will be billed for additional postage. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact the K.O.S. at 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Ky. 40241-2425.

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family, \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

We thank Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. for this photograph of a spring feeding into a receding McElroy Lake, Warren County, Kentucky in September 1989.

IN MEMORIAM

For the K.O.S., Faye Hensley Starr will forever be a part of "Brigadoon," the wooded treasure she and Dr. Russell Starr preserved as their gift to Kentuckians.

Faye died March 2, 1991. Her world has lost a unique combination of skilled professionalism, sophisticated connoisseur, tough mountaineer and vibrant woman.

Of the many community projects to which Faye contributed her talents, one was especially her own — the Intensive Care unit at the local hospital. The multitude of her interests and the benefits and pleasures which resulted for her and those around her could serve as a blueprint for the joy of living.

Her legacy to the K.O.S. is the memory of her infectious laughter; and always, "Brigadoon."

— Mrs. Marquita Gillenwater, Glasgow, Kentucky.

THE SPRING SEASON, 1991

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

The spring season was unusually mild. All three months — March, April and May — temperatures averaged above normal, with May as much as 7.4 degrees greater than normal. In fact, the month of May in Louisville was the warmest May since 1896, according to the Weather Bureau. Strangely enough, precipitation was below normal in Louisville, except for the month of March, when it was slightly above normal. Water was high in western Kentucky during the entire period. Lake #9 covered "several hundred acres, and there were many shallow pools and puddles in that area" (CP).

Migration was spotty and numbers were low. In spite of the warm weather, most transient species as well as the summer residents seemed to arrive on schedule. Shorebirds were fairly good this spring at the slough near Harrodsburg, Mercer County, where a Danville-area record of 12 species was noted on April 30 (FL). Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers were in reduced numbers, especially in the Louisville area. Strangely enough, it appeared to be a poor year for transient thrushes; however, Wood Thrushes were more in evidence in the Danville area than in recent years (FL). The warbler migration was sporadic but good on a few dates; in the Mammoth Cave area, at least 11 species were present on April 19 (KC, LR), and in northern Kentucky, May 4 seemed to be the peak (LMc).

Some of the more unusual species reported included the Pacific Loon, Cinnamon Teal, Surf Scoter, White-rumped Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Bewick's Wren and Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BNP = Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville, Jefferson County; BerF = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; CS = Caperton's Swamp (Riverfields Sanctuary), Louisville, Jefferson County; CCSP = Carter Caves State Park, Carter County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; ChL = Chaney Lake, Warren County; CSL = Cool Springs Lake, Ohio County; Dan = Danville area (Boyle and southern

Mercer counties); DD = Dix Dam, Mercer County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; FCRA = Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County; Han = Hanson, Hopkins County; KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; KD = Kentucky Dam, Marshall County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; KyL = Kentucky Lake; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; LBar = Lake Barkley; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; LenP = Lentz's Pond, Harrod's Creek, Louisville, Jefferson County; Mad = Madisonville area, Hopkins County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; MayB = Mayfair Basins, Louisville, Jefferson County; McA = McAlpine Dam (Falls of the Ohio), Louisville, Jefferson County; McEL = McElroy Lake, Warren County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; NBSP = Natural Bridge State Park, Powell County; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Cool Spring, Ohio County; RNWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; SciH = Science Hill, Pulaski County; Som = Somerset, Pulaski County.

Loons through Herons — A single Common Loon reached CRL on March 15 (FB), whereas five returned to LPew on March 17, (KC, LR) and preceded small numbers (1-4) during April and early May from KD (MS, BM, MM, KC, AW) to LPew (JH), Camp Ernst, Boone County (KC, JCa, LMc), MCFH (FB) and Green River Lake, Taylor County (JEL), with the latest (3 birds) above KD and (2) at LBar on May 15 (MS). The *Pacific Loon* photographed on December 19, 1990 on KyL was accepted by the KBRC and established Kentucky's first record; a second (or the same) Arctic/Pacific Loon in first basic plumage was above KD on May 3 (MS, BM, MM), one on May 4 in the same location (KC, AW), and again on May 13 (S, FS). The first Pied-billed Grebe reported was a single bird at LenP on March 15 (MS), 24 were noted in the Ohio River basin, Louisville, Jefferson County, March 26 (LR), and 1-2 were seen at LPew (JH), Dan (FL), KD (JB, PB), and Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County (CP), between March 27 and May 9; the species remains scarce. Few Horned Grebes were reported: 4, Ohio River, Louisville, March 13 (LR); 3, CRL, March 15 (FB); 1, McA, Louisville, March 15 (MS); and 11, McEL, March 16 (MS). Fewer Double-crested Cormorants were reported this spring than last season, with 14 as the highest number at Shippingport Island on April 17 (LR), where 5 were first sighted on March 22 (LR); single birds were seen at SWMA, April 5 (KC, LR) and KyL, April 13 (JB, PB), and 2 were recorded at Ash Pond, EMPP, March 28 (KC, LMc). Two American Bitterns were seen flying over a marsh, PHSM, April 5 (LR); 1 same location, April 8 and 20 (KC). Great Blue Herons were noted in Dan through May 4 (no number given, FL); 1, River Road area, Louisville, March 15 (JB, PB); 1 LPew, March 19 (JH); 12, LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); and 8, LBL, May 13 (S, FS). A colony of 30 nests was counted at New Concord, Calloway County, March 11 (CP, J. T. Erwin). A Great Egret was seen in Dan area as early as March 30 (FL); 5 at SWMA on April 5 (KC, LR); 1 at MCFH on April 6, 10, 20, 21 (FB); 1, near a pond on Oakhill Drive (near Oakwood), Som, April 7-8 (JEL); 3, near Caneyville, Grayson County, April 8 (KC); 2, in flooded field near EBPP, Boone County, April 13 (KC, *vide* LMc); 2, at ChL, April 30 (MS). Single Snowy Egrets were noted south of Bowling Green, Warren County, April 30 (MS) and at BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The only Little Blue Heron reported was one in pied plumage at BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). A Cattle Egret was observed at McEL, March 30 (RH) and noted there the following day (BPB, *vide* RH); several were

seen in western Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM); and 50+ in Carlisle County, May 9 (CP). Green-backed Herons were in lower numbers than normal at MCFH (FB); the species arrived later than usual, and a single bird was first observed at Hematite Lake, LBL, April 13 (JB, PB), 2 at LPew, April 17 (JH); CS, April 23 (MS), 1 at BerF, April 24 (JB, PB); and 3 at CS, May 5 (JB, PB). An adult with 3 young birds out of the nest on a tree branch at BPS, May 28, was protesting the presence of a raccoon (KC); scarce in Dan, only one was seen (FL). Thirty-three Black-crowned Night-Herons had arrived at Shippingport Island, Louisville, March 23 (LR); 1 was seen carrying nesting material at McA, Louisville, April 25 (MS); 99 noted at McA on April 26 (LR); 1 observed across from Hardy Slough, Henderson County, April 28 (LR); and 50 counted at McA on May 24 (S, FS).

Waterfowl — There were 11 White-fronted Geese observed on the CSL, March 3 (BPB, Joyce Porter). A few Snow Geese were still present: one, white morph, near Petersburg, Boone County, March 9 (LMc); and 1, blue morph, at McEL, March 16 (MS). With few exceptions, puddle ducks were in low numbers. Sixteen Green-winged Teal were in the Dan area on March 15 (FL); and 4, on River Road area, Louisville, March 15 (JB, PB). Blue-winged Teal began arriving on March 4 with 4 birds at McEL (JB, PB); few at McEL, March 9 (MS); 3 at LPew, March 22 and April 17 (JH); 2 at Som, March 18 (JEl); many at SWMA, April 5 (KC, LR); 57 at McEL and 2 at ChL, April 30 (MS); and 2 at Bondurant, Fulton County, May 25 (CP). A male and female *Cinnamon Teal* were observed with 60+ Blue-winged Teal, northeast of Owensboro, Daviess County, April 6 (MS, BM, Tanya Stinson); accepted by the KBRC. Northern Shovelers included 2 at LPew, March 11 (JH); 6 at LenP, March 15 (LR); 10 at Dan, March 15 (FL); 7 at McEL, April 30 (MS); and 3 at Bondurant, Fulton County, May 25 (CP). The highest count of Gadwalls was 400 at Bailey Hollow, Calloway County, March 19 (CP), and 4 were still at McEL, April 30 (MS). Nine American Wigeon were present at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville, March 20 (LR). Diving Ducks were slightly more numerous. Few Canvasbacks were reported: 1 at McEL, March 9 (MS); several at McEL, March 16 (MS). There were approximately 70 Redheads at CRL on March 15 and 16 (FB). One hundred and twenty Ring-necked Ducks were counted at LPew, March 15 (JH); and 75+ were present at Som, March 18 (JEl). A male Greater Scaup was discovered at Ash Pond, EBPP, March 22 (KCa, LMc); and 1 male was at McEL, March 23 (RH). A total of 58 Lesser Scaup was noted in the Ohio River basin, Louisville, March 13 (LR); 35 observed in Mercer County, March 21 (FL); and 1 male was seen at McA, Louisville, April 25 (MS). A male Lesser Scaup was observed at MCFH on May 11, 13, 15, 29, 30 and 31, while a female Scaup sp. had been present at another pond at MCFH on May 29, 30 and 31 (FB). It was interesting to find 4 Surf Scoters at Lexington Reservoir, Fayette County, April 21 (M. Flynn *vide* BPB); also, there was a first-spring male on a private lake in northwestern Hardin County, April 30 (MS, photograph taken), and according to the property owner, the bird was present several days prior to April 30 (MS). These are indeed late records for Kentucky. A few Buffleheads were reported: 3-9 at LPew, March 11-April 2 (JH); 8 in Mercer County, March 21 (FL); and a female with 3 Red-breasted Mergansers as late as May 15 at KD (MS, BM, MM). Three Hooded Mergansers were seen at LenP, March 15 (JB, PB); 3 were at Dan, April 13 (FL); and 1 female was at EBPP, Boone County, May 11 (LMc, KCa, TS). Fourteen Red-breasted Mergansers were present at LPew, March 17 (LR); 3 at KD,

May 3-4 (MS, BM, MM); 2 at Dan, May 4 (FL); 2 at KD, May 11 (JB, PB); and 3 at KD, May 15 (MS, BM, MM). Up to 35 Ruddy Ducks were seen at LPew, March 11-April 10 (JH, LR); several were present at McEL, March 16 (MS), with 8 there April 20 (MS); and 1 female was at MayB, March 22-23 (MS).

Hawks through Cranes — Although 20 Black Vultures were present during February, few were reported in March: singles were seen in southeastern Jefferson County, March 17 (JB, PB), and at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB). Ospreys were reported from five locations: 1, BerF, March 29 (MS); 2, MCFH, April 6 and 10 (FB); 1, near Petersburg, Boone County, April 14 (LMc); 1, MCFH, April 20, 21, with 2 there, April 28 and 1, May 3 (FB); 1, CEL, May 4 (LMc); and 1, Dan, May 2 (FL). Only one Mississippi Kite was reported and that was at Wickliffe, Ballard County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Two Bald Eagle nests with young were seen in LBL in April (WB); details will be included in the next Nesting Season Report. Northern Harriers were reported from only two counties: 1, Short Creek, Grayson County, March 20 (KC); 15, PHSM, April 5 (KC); and 3, PHSM, May 4 (BM, MM, MS). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks continue to be in low numbers. Sharp-shinned hawks sighted included 1 at Burlington, Boone County, March 15 (JCa, KCa); 2 at Cave City, Barren County, March 24, and 1 there, April 1 (MStu); 1 at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB); and 1 in Creason Park, Louisville, April 21 (JEL). Single Cooper's were seen at LBL, March 17 and southeastern Jefferson County, April 13 (JB, PB); 7, Dan (FL). Red-shouldered Hawks included 1, LBL, March 9 (JB, PB); and 2, Loch Mary, Earlington, Hopkins County, April 30 (JH). No Broad-winged Hawk flights were observed; the species was fairly wide-spread, but in low numbers. Records include the following: 1, Oil Center, Pulaski County, April 7 (JEL); 1, EBPP and Burlington, Boone County, April 13 and 18 (LMc); 1, McEL, April 20 (MS); 3, LBL, Trigg County, April 21 (CP); 2, MCNP, Edmonson County, April 22 (MStu); 1, Walton's Mountain, Pulaski County, April 27 (JEL); 3, Penny-rile State Park, Christian County, May 8 (BM); and 2, Walton's Mountain, May 15 (JEL), but only 2 were reported at Dan during period (FL). A good study of a Red-tailed Hawk of the race *krideri* was made in Mercer County, March 15 (FL, WK). A dark phase Rough-legged Hawk was noted in Mercer County, March 15 (FL); at PHSM, 1 was noted March 20 (MS, BM), 5 April 5 (KC), and 3 April 20 (KC). Quite unusual was the sighting of an adult Golden Eagle at CRL, April 21 — good documentation (FB). A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Standiford Airport, Louisville, May 31 (BM). Two Wild Turkeys were seen at MCNP, April 19 (LR); 1 reported near Oil Center, Pulaski County, May 11 (JEL); and 1 was seen west of Leitchfield, Grayson County, May 15 (MS, BM). Only a few American Coots were present in Dan area (FL); highest count at LPew was 92 on March 5 and 22, and one was still present on May 7 (JH). A few Sandhill Cranes were still moving northward in March: 30, at BPS, March 5 (KC); 8, BPS, March 20 (KC); and 2 in eastern Jefferson County, March 26 (FS, F. Williams).

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration was fairly good this spring at the slough near Harrodsburg, Mercer County, where a Dan-area record of 12 species was noted, April 30 (FL). A Black-bellied Plover was seen at RNWR, April 1 (CP); and several were in western Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread: 2, McEL, March 16 (MS); 3, Hailwell, Hickman County, and 40+, western Fulton

County, March 19 (MS); 19, RNWR, April 1 (CP); and 5, McEL, April 14 (JB, PB). Semipalmated Plovers were also widespread: 11, McEL, April 27 (JB, PB); up to 8, Dan, April 30-May 25 (FL); 17 at Lick Creek, Boone County, May 11 (LMc, JCa, KCa, TS); and up to 12 at MCFH, May 4-31 (FB). An adult Killdeer was near its nest with 4 eggs (eggs hatched, April 4), SciH, March 23 (JEL). Up to 25+ Greater Yellowlegs were noted at McEL, March 16-April 30 (MS); several at Lake #9, Fulton County, March 19 (MS); 80+ at RNWR, April 1 (CP); 1 at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, April 24 (JH); 1 at MCFH, May 4 (FB); and in Dan through May 7 (FL). Fair numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs were present with 200+ at McEL, March 16 through April (MS); 150+ at Lake #9, Fulton County, March 19 (MS, BM); 60+ at RNWR, April 1 (CP); 34 in Dan, April 24 (FL); 2 below Wolf Creek Dam, Russell County, April 28 (JEL); 150+ at McEL and 100+ at ChL, April 30 (MS); several at Lake #9, May 4 (MS, BM, MM); and 4 at MSFH, May 3, with 1-2 there May 4-13 (FB). A single Solitary Sandpiper was fairly early east of McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); other records included 8, RNWR, April 1 (CP); 3, LPew, April 10 (JH); 1, LPew, April 17 (JH); 2, Elk Creek, Hopkins County, April 24 (JH); and 1, MCFH, May 4 and 2, on May 10 (FB). A single Willet was noted at ChL, April 30 (MS), but a flock of 45+ at KD, May 3 was impressive (MS, BM, MM). A Spotted Sandpiper was early at KD, March 13 (JB, PB); other reports included 2, McA, Louisville, April 9 (MS); 1, Towhead Island, Louisville, May 5 (JB, PB); 2, LPew, May 7 (JH); and 1-3, MCFH, April 20-May 15 (FB). Semipalmated Sandpipers did not arrive until May: 1, western Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM); 5, Flaherty, Meade County, May 10 (RH); 4, MCFH, May 10, 13 (FB); Dan, May 7-25, with a maximum of 40 on May 25 (FL); and 3-4, MCFH, May 29-31 (FB). Six Western Sandpipers were carefully identified with Least Sandpipers and Dunlin at McEL, April 20 (MS, BPB *et. al.*); 1 was at Dan, April 30 (FL); several were at MCFH, with 3 on May 10 and 15, 4 on May 29 and 30, and 3 on May 31 (FB). The flock of 200+ Least Sandpipers at RNWR, April 1 was noteworthy (CP); other sightings included 2, McEL, April 20 (MS); 3, MCFH, April 28, and 5-11 on May 4-15 (FB); and up to 6, Dan, through May 21 (FL). A few of the uncommon White-rumped Sandpipers appeared: 1, near Harrodsburg, Mercer County, May 7 (FL); and 3-5, MCFH, May 29-31 (FB). A fair number of Pectoral Sandpipers were present: Dan, March 8-May 10, with a maximum 33 on March 25 (FL); 42, McEL, March 9, and 111, McEL, March 18 (MS); 100+, RNWR, April 1 (CP); 11, SWMA, April 5 (KC, LR); and 20, McEL, April 14 (JB, PB). A Dunlin was first reported at McEL, April 20 (MS); 5 others were noted in a flock of Short-billed Dowitchers at Flaherty, Meade County, May 10 (RH); and 1 was seen at Lick Creek, Boone County, May 11 (LMc, JCa, KCa, TS). A fair flight of Short-billed Dowitchers occurred, with 60 at Flaherty, Meade County, May 10 (RH); unprecedented numbers were in the Dan area, April 30-May 10, with up to 27 on May 10, and all appeared to be the race *hendersoni* (FL). A single Long-billed Dowitcher, a presumed female in good color and closely studied, was at Dan, April 30, first spring report for the region (FL). Three American Woodcock were observed at BNP, Louisville, March 4 (JB, PB); 2 were at KD, March 9 (JB, PB); and 1 was seen and heard calling near Gilbertsville, Marshall County, May 3-4 (MS, BM, MM). A nest with an adult incubating 4 eggs was discovered three miles NNW of Graefenburg, eastern Shelby County, April 15 (Kerry Prather, *vide* BPB). Common Snipe were noted at McEL, March 4-May 3 (MS, JB, PB), with a maximum of 14 on March 16 (MS); other

records included 1-3, LPew, April 2-May 7 (JH); Dan, through May 4 (FL); and 12, RNWR, April 1 (CP).

Gulls and Terns — Some 300+ Bonaparte's Gulls were present on LBar at the mouth of Energy Bay, March 2 (BPB); other records included 5, McEL, March 18 (MS, BM, MM); 20, FCRA, March 22 (JEL); 60+, LBar N of U.S. 68, Trigg County, March 25 (CP); 17, FCRA, April 1 (JEL); 2, Louisville, April 14 (MS); 5, DD, April 20 (FL); 15, MCFH, April 20, 30 on April 21 (FB); 1, DD, April 24 (FL); and 1, MCFH, May 5 (FB). There were 45 Ring-billed Gulls noted at Eva Bandman Park, 75 near Lentz's Pond, and 166 at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville, March 13 (LR); the species was also present at MCFH, April 19-28, with a peak of 65, April 21 (FB); and several were at DD through May 4 (FL). A single adult Herring Gull was still present at MCFH, April 21 (FB). A few Caspian Terns were reported: 2, McA, Louisville, April 11 (MS); 2, MCFH, April 12 and May 4 (FB); and 1, DD, May 25 (FL). A single Common Tern was seen at KD, April 13 (JB, PB); 1 was at MCFH, April 20 (FB); and 3 were fairly late at DD, May 25 (FL). Forster's Terns were slightly more numerous: singles, DD and CEL, April 20 (FL, LMc, respectively); 2, MCFH, April 20 (FB); several, KD, May 3 (MS, BM, MM); approximately 50, MCFH, May 4 (FB); and 29 McA, May 5 (LR). Also, *Sterna* sp., 20+ KD, May 3, mostly Forster's with at least 2 Common (MS, BM, MM); and Forster's still present at MCFH, May 15 (FB). Six Least Terns were noted at McA, May 5 (LR).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — Cuckoos were scarce and arrived rather late. A Single Black-billed Cuckoo was heard calling at Dan, May 7 (FL); and single Yellow-billed were first noted at Mad, April 30 (JH) and at CS, May 2 (MS). A nest of the Great Horned Owl with two young was found at Owensboro, Daviess County, March 30 (KC, LR); 6, with two nests located, in Dan, April 20 (FL); and 2, at Brown Park, Louisville, May 1 (JB, PB). Short-eared Owls were not as numerous this spring at PHSM: 3-7, March 20-April 20 (KC); 3 March 20 (MS, BM, MM); and 1 May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The earliest Common Nighthawks reported were singles at Prospect, Jefferson County, April 14 (FM) and at Louisville, April 28 (MS). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at BPS as early as April 6 (KC); 1 at Mad, April 15 (JH); and 1 at Han, April 18 (B. West, *vide* JH). A Whip-poor-will had returned to Han by March 21 (B. West, *vide* JH); 1 was at BPS, April 6 (KC); and 1 was heard at Mad, April 8 (JH). A flock of Chimney Swifts was first recorded in eastern Louisville, April 10 (MS). A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird arrived at Murray, Calloway County, April 6 (WB); other records included 3 males, BPS, April 16 (KC); 2 males, 1 female, Murray, Calloway County, April 18 (WB); 1, MCNP, April 20 (MS); 1 male, SciH, April 24 (JEL); and 1 male, Han, April 24 (B. West, *vide* JH). Red-headed Woodpeckers were present at KD, April 12-13, and numerous on the latter date (JB, PB). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (1 to 3) were seen at MCNP, KD, LBL and BNP, April 7-22 (JB, PB).

Flycatchers through Nuthatches — Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at Pennyryle Forest State Resort Park, May 11 (CMo, Dean Hinson, David Chiles) and at BNP, May 13 (MS). Eastern Wood-Pewees showed up at Carter Caves State Resort Park, Carter County, April 28 (MS) and at Loch Mary, Earlington, Hopkins County, April 30 (JH). Willow Flycatchers were noted at Petersburg, East Bend, Boone County, and at three Henry County locations during May (LMc); and 2-4 were at

MCFH, May 10-31 (FB). Although Eastern Phoebees were noted at MCNP, March 4 (JB, PB), five with 3 nests (one nest with 4 eggs) was sighted there, April 26 (MStu). Great Crested Flycatchers were first noted at Han, April 6 (B. West, *fide* JM); at MCNP, April 20 (MS); and at Mad, April 22 (JH). Eastern Kingbirds were not reported until April 13 at LBL (JB, PB) and at MCNP, April 20 (MS). A nice flock of 200+ Horned Larks was seen in southern Warren County, March 9 (MS). Purple Martins had returned fairly early at Leitchfield, Grayson County, March 9 (AW, *fide* KC); other records included 1, McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); 1, LBL, March 18 (MS, BM); 3, LPew, March 22 (JH); and 50, KyL, April 12 (JB, PB). There was a good flight of Tree Swallows: 15 had arrived at LBL, March 18 (MS); 300 at MCFH, March 29 (FB), and about 250 on April 5 (FB); 63, near LPew, April 10 (JH); approximately 150, MCFH, April 20, with nesting noted in four new Bluebird boxes by May 4 (FB); and 37 at LPew, April 22 (JH). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was rather early at Towhead Island, Louisville, March 23 (MS); the species also noted at BerF, March 29 (MS). The Bank and Cliff Swallows were first recorded at McEL, April 20 (MS) and at Dan on the same date (FL). A Barn Swallow returned to McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); and 2 were at FCRA, March 28 (JEl). Four Fish Crows were heard calling along lower Ohio River, BWMA (also two others in Fulton County), March 19 (MS, BM). A few Red-breasted Nuthatches were found: 2 BerF, March 20 (MS, BM) and March 21 (JB, PB); Carter Caves State Resort Park, Carter County, April 27 (KOS); and 1, Murphy's Pond, Hickman County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM).

Wrens through Shrikes — Carolina Wrens were doing well with peak numbers in Dan (FL) and good numbers in Louisville (S). A Bewick's Wren was discovered in Cave City, April 10 (MStu); 1, Leitchfield, April 17, also observed occasionally throughout the period (AW, KC). A single House Wren was heard singing at Louisville, April 9 (MS); the species was obviously increasing in former Bewick's Wrens haunts in Dan (FL). There was little evidence of kinglet migration. Very few Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in Dan (FL), but 6 were at MCNP, March 24 (JB, PB). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was heard singing in east Louisville, March 9 (S); other records included 2, KyL, April 12 (JB, PB); 4, LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, April 13 (FM); 24, Hopkinsville, Christian County, April 14 (JH); and 1, BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher returned to Louisville, April 4 (MS); 2 were building a nest, just east of Henderson, Henderson County, April 6 (MS); and 2 with a nest were reported at MCNP, April 19 (MStu). Fair numbers of Eastern Bluebirds were found in Calloway County (WB), Prospect area, Oldham County (FK, Sr.) and Grayson County (KC). The Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush and Hermit Thrush were all present but in low numbers. It was encouraging that the Wood Thrush was more in evidence in the knobs in Dan than in recent years (FL); the species, however, remains scarce in the Louisville area (S). Migration of the American Robin was noted at SciH, March 6 when 300+ were seen (JEl). Numbers of Gray Catbirds continue to be in low numbers. The Brown Thrasher arrived on schedule in eastern Louisville, March 27 (S, FS), and at Prospect, Jefferson County, March 29 (FM). Some 30+ Water Pipits had returned to McEL, March 9 (MS); 300+ were there, March 18 (MS, BM); and a few remained, May 3 (MS). Cedar Waxwings were observed throughout the period at Cave City, Barren County (MStu); none was seen prior to May 4, when a few were noted along the Mississippi

River in Fulton County, but the following week, good numbers were in Louisville, increasing in the next few weeks of May (MS). Loggerhead Shrike records were few: 4, along Route 155 in northern Spencer County, March 5 (MS); and 1, Hart County, May 22 (MStu).

Vireos through Warblers — A White-eyed Vireo, singing, east of Henderson, Henderson County, April 6, was fairly early (MS, BM); another was sighted at Mad, April 9 (JH). Two Bell's Vireos were seen and heard at the nesting site of previous years, PHSM, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The following Solitary Vireos were reported: 1, MCNP, April 19 (KC, LR); 2, NBSP, April 22 (JB, PB); and several singing at Pine Mountain State Resort Park, Bell County, May 25-27 (MS). Yellow-throated Vireos began arriving in April with 5 at LBL, April 12-13 (JB, PB); 1 at MCNP, April 17 (S, FS); and at Mad, April 23 (JH). Warbling Vireos were first recorded along River Road east of Louisville, April 17 (MS); and at Mad, April 19 (JH). A Philadelphia Vireo was fairly early at KyL, April 12 (JB, PB); 1 was at BerF, April 24 (JB, PB); and 1 was recorded at CS, May 10 (JB, PB). A Red-eyed Vireo was heard at MCNP, April 17 (S, FS), and in southwestern Jefferson County, April 18 (MS); other reports included 1, MCNP, April 19 (KC, LR); and Mad, April 22 (JH). Warbler migration was good with most species being represented, but numbers were low. Single Blue-winged Warblers arrived at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB) and at MCNP, April 14 (JB, PB). Two male Golden-winged Warblers were heard singing at CS, May 2 (MS); and 1 was heard on BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). A Tennessee Warbler was reported at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); at Mad, April 18 (JH); and 2 were noted at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB). The Orange-crowned Warbler, usually rare in spring, was found at five locations: 1, NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB); 1, CS, April 25 (MS); 1, at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Floyd County, April 25 (BM, MM); 1, along the shore of CRL, April 27 (MS, BM, MM); and 1, BNP, April 28 (JB, PB). Two Nashville Warblers had arrived at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); 1 was at BNP, April 19 (JB, PB); Mad, April 24-26, but there were no records in May (JH); and the species was noted in Carter Caves State Resort Park, April 28 (MS). A Northern Parula was early at Cave City, March 28-April 1, equaling the previous early record of March 28, 1990 (MStu); there were "many" at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); 4 at MCNP, April 14 (JB, PB); and 6 at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB). The Yellow Warbler was first observed at CS, April 16 (MS); and at BNP, April 19 (JB, PB). A Magnolia Warbler was heard singing in a Crescent Hill yard, Louisville, May 10 (MS). Several Cape May Warblers were noted at BNP, May 5 (MS, JB, PB). It was quite a treat to see a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Carter Caves, May 4 (JB, PB). Two Yellow-rumped Warblers were still present at Anchorage, Jefferson County, May 12 (BM). A male Black-throated Green Warbler was singing at Seneca Park, Louisville, April 6 (MS); other early records were at LBL (JB, PB) and at Cave Hill Cemetery (FM), April 13. The first reported Blackburnian Warbler was a singing bird in northwestern Hardin County, April 30 (MS), but others showed up at Carter Caves, May 4 (JB, PB) and at Mad, May 5 (JH). The Yellow-throated Warbler was present in Henderson County, April 5 (MS, BM). Two Pine Warblers were present at LBL as early as March 18 (MS, BM); 2 were at BerF, March 21 (JB, PB); and the species was present at Mad, April 4 (JH). Prairie Warblers and Palm Warblers arrived by mid-April, while Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers arrived at Louisville by April 28 (JB, PB). Cerulean Warblers were in low numbers but reported from the following counties: Edmonson,

Jefferson, Powell (JB, PB), Carter (MS, S, KOS), and Rowan (MS). Three Black-and-white Warblers returned to MCNP by April 7 (JB, PB). Six Prothonotary Warblers were present at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB). The Worm-eating Warbler was noted at LBL, April 13; MCNP, April 14 (JB, PB); and along River Road, Louisville, April 16 (MS). An Ovenbird was unusually early at BNP, *March 19*, and established an early state date (BSH). The Northern Waterthrush was recorded at Brown Park, Louisville, April 28 (JB, PB). A Louisiana Waterthrush was present in Henderson County, April 6 (MS, BM). The Kentucky Warbler showed up at Brazzle Bridge, Hopkins County, April 24 (JH). The rare Connecticut Warbler was singing at Oil Center, Pulaski County, May 11 (JEL, BPB). The uncommon Mourning Warbler was seen at Mad, May 8 (JH). The Common Yellowthroat was first reported in Hopkins County, April 17 (JH). A Hooded Warbler arrived in Hopkins County, April 9 (JH). A male Wilson's Warbler was singing at BNP, May 13 (MS). A Canada Warbler was present NBSP, May 3 (JB, PB). The earliest report of the Yellow-breasted Chat was 1, Mad, April 27 (JH).

Tanagers through Sparrows — Scarlet Tanagers were fairly widespread with the earliest at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); it was an exceptional year in Dan, with a maximum of 20 on May 10 (FL). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks did not seem as numerous this spring; only one was noted during the period at BPS (KC). A single Blue Grosbeak had returned to BWMA by May 4 (MS, BM, MM) and to Han by May 6 (B. West, *fide* JH). The Indigo Bunting had reached MCNP by April 14 (JB, PB). There were few reports on the Dickcissel: 1, Union, Boone County, mid-April-early May (Janet Barnett, *fide* LMc); and several singing, BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Few Vesper Sparrows were reported, but the species was present March 22-April 5 (MS, CP, KC, LR). Several Savannah Sparrows were seen at McEL and ChL, March 16 (MS); many were at CEL, April 30-May 10 (LMc). Grasshopper Sparrows were not recorded until May 3 at McEL (MS). Fox Sparrows were present at Mad and BerF, March 22 and 29, respectively (MS). White-throated Sparrows lingered at Mad, May 11 (JH). White-crowned Sparrows were present to May 11 at LBL (JB, PB). Dark-eyed Juncos were present at Mad, April 16 (JH), and at the University of Louisville Campus, Louisville, April 23 (BM).

Bobolinks through Finches. — Several Bobolinks were seen at BWMA and Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Fifteen Rusty Blackbirds were noted in Fulton County, March 19 (MS, BM); and 31 were at CS, April 4 (MS). A flock of Brewer's Blackbirds were seen east of McEL, March 16 (MS, BPB); several were at McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); and 29 were present at Hailwell, Hickman County, March 19 (MS, BM). The Orchard Oriole was not reported until April 17 (MS). A Northern Oriole was heard singing at Prospect, Jefferson County, *April 7* (CM), and heard and seen in the same location, April 8 (FM, CM); the April 7 date ties our earliest state date. Few Purple Finches were observed: 8 males, LBL, March 18 (MS, BM); up to 20, BPS, March 20-April 8 (KC); and 2, MCNP, March 24 (JB, PB). A male and female House Finch were building a nest on nesting shelf under a porch, SciH, April 13, with 5 eggs on April 27 and fledged young on May 27 (JEL). A few Pine Siskins remained: 5, southwestern Jefferson County, March 24 (DS); and up to 6, BPS, March 27-April 24 (KC). Five female Evening Grosbeaks were noted at Murray, Calloway County, April 18 (WB).

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RETURN OF THE WOODBURN LAKES, 1989; PART II.

BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR. AND GARY BOGGS

MARBLED GODWIT. *Limosa fedora*. On 29 April, 4 birds were observed with the flock of Willets reported above. This represents Kentucky's first record documented with photographs. The fifth record overall, the first record of more than one bird, and the first record for sc Ky.

RUDDY TURNSTONE. *Arenaria interpres*. This relatively rare shorebird was observed only at McElroy as follows: in spring, three birds in breeding plumage 20-24 May; and in fall, 1 juvenile 2-10 September. Wilson (1962, 1969) reported this species only five times at the lakes, all in spring. Thus, the fall record apparently represents the first for sc Ky.

RED KNOT. *Calidris canutus*. This rare transient was observed in fall on 2, 4, 8, 10 and 12 September (3j on most dates, 1j on the latter). Wilson (1962, 1969) reported this species from the region on a few dates in spring (the state's only spring records). Thus these observations represent the first for sc Ky in fall.

SANDERLING. *Calidris alba*. This species was observed at McElroy in fall on 22 August (2-3a), and then 2-16 September (peak of 6-8j on 10 September). Wilson (1962, 1969) did not report the Sanderling during fall migration, thus these latter observations apparently represent the first for sc Ky in fall.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER. *Calidris pusilla*. This common peep was observed on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was seen primarily at McElroy from 7 May (2+ birds) through 6 June (5 birds) with peak counts there of 400+ birds on 20 May and 425+ on 29 May. In fall the species was recorded from 22 July (10a at Chaney) to 16 September (3j at McElroy and 1j at Chaney) with peak counts of 55 (most or all adults) at McElroy on 6 August and 30-35+ (most or all juveniles) at McElroy 27 August-8 September.

WESTERN SANDPIPER. *Calidris mauri*. This very rare spring transient was observed at McElroy on 30 April when three birds were found in the company of a flock of Semipalmated Plovers (2 of the 3 birds photographed) for an exceptional spring record and the first for the state well-documented by photos. The Western Sandpiper is much more numerous during fall migration, and birds were observed at the lakes from 22 July (1a at Chaney) to 16 September (3j at McElroy, 5j at Chaney)

with a peak count of ca. 35 birds (most or all juveniles) at McElroy on 4 September.

LEAST SANDPIPER. *Calidris minutilla*. This small peep was observed on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was recorded from 29 April (6 birds at McElroy, 2 birds at Chaney) to 6 June (1 bird at McElroy) with a peak count of at least 250 birds at McElroy on 5 May. In fall the species was recorded from 16 July (5a at Chaney) to 16 September (30 at McElroy; most or all juveniles) and 7 October (20 at Chaney; most or all juveniles) with a peak count of 75-100 or more birds (many juveniles) at McElroy 2-10 September.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. *Calidris fuscicollis*. This relatively late spring shorebird was observed only at McElroy during spring migration from 14 May (3-5 birds) to 13 June (15 birds) with an impressive peak of at least 55-60 birds on 25 May, followed by 30+ on 27 May, and 25+ on 29 May.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. *Calidris bairdii*. This very rare spring shorebird could not be found at the lakes in spring when Wilson (1962, 1969) and others reported the species several times. Small numbers were observed at McElroy during fall migration, when the species is more widespread and numerous, as follows: 8-22 August (1a), and from 2 September (4j) to 16 September (2j) with a peak count of 6-10j on 4 September. As with several other shorebirds, these records apparently represent the first for sc Ky in fall since Wilson (1962, 1969) reported the species only in spring.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. *Calidris melanotos*. This common shorebird was observed at both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was seen from 25 March (6 birds at Chaney) to 25 May (1 bird at McElroy) with a peak count of 100+ birds at McElroy 20 April-5 May. In fall the species was recorded from 16 July (12+u on a pond near McElroy) to 16 September (15+u at McElroy) and 7 October (10-15u at Chaney) with peak counts at McElroy of 150-200 birds on 6 August, 300-350 birds 20-22 August, 150-200 through 2 September, and 100+ through 8 September.

DUNLIN. *Calidris alpina*. This uncommon transient was observed in small numbers at McElroy during spring migration from 5 May (4 birds) to 29 May (1 bird) with a peak count of five birds on 20 May. McElroy dried up before Dunlins began returning on southward migration, but a single bird was observed with other shorebirds at Chaney on 7 October. Although this latter observation apparently represents only the second fall record reported for the vicinity of the Woodburn lakes (Wilson 1962), the species should be regular in sc Ky in late fall.

STILT SANDPIPER. *Calidris himantopus*. This relatively uncommon shorebird was observed at McElroy during spring migration and at both lakes during fall migration. In spring it was seen at McElroy 20-27 May with a peak count on the former date of 13 birds, including an individual color-marked with wing tags and leg bands. Inquiry with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the origin of the bird yielded information that it had been tagged and banded in Puerto Rico! During fall migration the species was recorded from 22 July (3-4a at Chaney, 2a at McElroy) to 12 September at McElroy (20+j) and 7 October at Chaney (2u) with a peak count of 30-35 birds (most juv's) at McElroy 2-8 September. The Stilt Sandpiper was reported by Wilson (1962) only rarely and in small numbers at the Woodburn lakes.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER. *Tryngites subruficollis*. This uncommon shorebird was observed during fall migration at McElroy from 22 August (1 bird) to 16 September (6+ birds) with a peak of no less than 16 birds on 4 September. All individuals appeared to be juveniles. Wilson (1962) reported this species from sc Ky on the basis of only two observations (neither from the lakes). Thus, these observations represent the first for this species from the Woodburn lakes. In addition, the peak count ties the largest number to have ever been reported anywhere in the state.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus griseus*. This species was present on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring, small groups of Short-billed Dowitchers (2-4 birds) were present (mostly at McElroy) 5-20 May. Boggs noted a dowitcher at McElroy as late as 23 May that was probably this species, although call notes could not be heard to confirm its identity. All other observations of this species in spring were confirmed with call notes. The Short-billed Dowitcher migration peaks earlier in fall than the Long-billed, and Short-billeds were present (mostly at McElroy) 4 July (1a) to 12 September (8-10j) with a peak of 25-30 birds (all juveniles) on 2 September. Most fall sightings were confirmed with call notes, although some involved noting only plumage characters, especially of juveniles.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. The opportunity for increasing knowledge about the occurrence of migratory shorebirds in Kentucky afforded by the presence of the Woodburn lakes throughout much of 1989 was perhaps no better exemplified than by observations of the Long-billed Dowitcher. For a species represented in Mengel's *Birds of Kentucky* by only two specimen records, the number of records of this poorly known species made at the lakes in 1989 is truly remarkable. In spring, the species showed up in Kentucky during a brief but very pronounced movement lasting about a week from late April into early May. During this period, Long-billed Dowitchers were observed at both lakes as follows: five birds (some heard calling, all feeding together) at Chaney on 29 April; a surprisingly large group of 22 birds (only call notes heard in the flock were Long-billed) at McElroy also on 29 April; and 10 birds (all similarly marked, only call notes heard were Long-billed) at McElroy on 5 May. The species was present in fall only at McElroy, where a pair of early adults was identified by both sight and call notes (only one called) on 6 August. During 20-22 August, another very dark-backed adult was identified by sight. Although the identification was not confirmed with call notes, the dark back and orange-buff underparts, coarsely marked with barring on the sides of the breast and flanks, served to identify this individual with certainty. Finally, on 10 September, an adult that appeared to be in full winter plumage was closely studied and heard calling at McElroy. These fall records represent most of only a few for the state of the seldom-encountered, early-migrating adults of this species. The juveniles, which usually far outnumber adults, are most often the ones encountered in Kentucky in fall after their late departure from the nesting grounds. It is probable that if the lakes had persisted well into October, a number of sightings of juveniles would have been obtained later in the season. Dr. Wilson did not distinguish between the two dowitcher species, so these records represent the first documented for the Woodburn lakes and apparently sc Ky.

COMMON SNIPE. *Gallinago gallinago*. This fairly common shorebird was observed at both lakes during both spring and fall migration. The species was present in spring from 11 March (3 birds at Chaney) to 14 May (2 birds at Chaney) with a peak of ca. 50+ birds on 17 March at McElroy.

A single bird was studied closely on 19 June along a ditch at McElroy, and all field marks were noted. This highly unusual sighting represents the state's first June record. The species was present in fall from the early date of 13 August (1 bird at McElroy) to 16 September (2 birds at McElroy) and 7 October (10+ birds at Chaney) with a peak of 6-10 birds at McElroy during September. Snipe were conspicuous by their presence in numbers (no less than 6-8 birds) at McElroy during latter August, well before the species is usually noted at all in Kentucky.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus tricolor*. This rare to uncommon shorebird was not observed in spring at the lakes, but a good flight was noted in fall from 6 August (1u) to 10 September (2j) with a peak of no less than five birds and perhaps up to 8-10 (most or all juveniles), 20-27 August. Although Wilson (1962) listed a few records of this species from the lakes in spring, he did not report the species from sc Ky in fall.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus lobatus*. Three separate observations of this very rare shorebird were made at McElroy in 1989, including the state's first spring and mid-summer records, making for one of the highlights of the year. A probable female in nearly full breeding plumage was observed 20 and 23 May (photographed on 20th; see KW 66:29-30, 1990); a female in full breeding plumage (assumed to be an early fall migrant) was observed swimming on the open water with ducks and picking food off the water surface on 4 July; finally, a probable juvenile molting into winter plumage was present 10-12 September. Wilson (1962, 1969) did not list this species from sc Ky.

FRANKLIN'S GULL. *Larus pipixcan*. A sub-adult bird was observed flying over McElroy on 20 May. This individual apparently arrived while a group of us was birding at the lake. It flew around for ca. ten minutes before departing, accompanied by several Ring-billed Gulls that had been perched on a point for some time. Wilson (1962, 1969) did not list this species from sc Ky.

BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Larus philadelphia*. This small gull was observed a few times at McElroy in spring: four adults, 15-18 March; and 1-2 first-year birds, 5-7 May. Wilson (1962, 1969) listed only eight records from sc Ky, apparently all from the lakes.

RING-BILLED GULL. *Larus delawarensis*. This fairly widespread gull was observed at McElroy in small numbers 15-23 March (3-15 birds) and 29 April through 20 May (1-8 birds).

HERRING GULL. *Larus argentatus*. This large, uncommon gull was seen on three occasions at McElroy 15, 18 and 23 March (3-4 birds). In addition, four birds (3 first-year, 1 second-year) were present on McElroy on the stormy afternoon of 5 May. When thunderstorms cleared late in the day, these birds circled off to the north.

CASPIAN TERN. *Sterna caspia*. This uncommon to fairly common transient was not observed at the lakes in spring, but small flocks were observed at McElroy on 2 September (4 birds) and 4 September (9 birds). Interestingly, these flocks were observed on both dates only for brief periods as they coursed back and forth over the lake several times before moving on, apparently unable to find suitable food and not needing to rest. Although Wilson (1962) listed three spring records for McElroy, he apparently never observed the species at the lakes in fall.

COMMON TERN. *Sterna hirundo*. Five birds were observed flying

over McElroy on the evening of 5 May for a rare spring record from the region. This species was reported by Wilson (1962, 1969) in sc Ky on only a few occasions.

FORSTER'S TERN. *Sterna forsteri*. This uncommon to fairly common transient was present at McElroy during both spring and fall migration. In spring the species was first observed by Boggs on the early date of 30 March (2 birds), and then on a few dates from 30 April (3 birds) to 20 May (1 bird). Six birds were observed at McElroy on 6 August for our only fall record. Curiously, Wilson (1962, 1969) listed only two records for this species in sc Ky.

BLACK TERN. *Chlidonias niger*. This uncommon to fairly common transient was well-represented at both lakes during both spring and fall migration. Some of the larger flocks to be reported in the state in some years were present at McElroy during peak migratory movements in late May and early August. In spring the species was first seen at McElroy by Boggs on the extremely early date of 15 March (2 adults), some six weeks before the species is normally expected to be observed in Kentucky. Afterwards, the species was present at McElroy from 5 May (9 birds) to 29 May (3 birds) with a peak of ca. 90-100 birds on 26 May. A pair of adults was observed foraging over McElroy on 13 June for a rare "mid-summer" record. The species was observed at both lakes in fall from 22 July (2 birds at Chaney) to 10 September (8 birds at McElroy) with peaks of 60 birds at Chaney and 125+ birds at McElroy on 6 August (most or all birds adults). Wilson (1962) observed the Black Tern often at the transient lakes, including a few dates in June.

Other species of interest:

OSPREY. *Pandion haliaetus*. An Osprey was observed foraging over McElroy on 2 and 4 September. On the latter date, it was observed eating a small bullhead catfish that it had just caught. Another or the same individual was observed soaring over Chaney on 16 September.

MERLIN. *Falco columbarius*. A female or immature Merlin was at McElroy on 22 April and 5 May (perhaps the same bird). On the latter date, the bird crossed the lake amidst a cloud of mobbing swallows and landed in a dead snag in the top of a tree in perfect light of a late afternoon sun. After perching for ca. five minutes and being harassed by a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), the bird headed off in a westerly direction (perhaps to Chaney). These observations represent two of only a handful of published spring records for this rare falcon, a majority having come from the lakes in previous years (Wilson 1962, 1969).

PEREGRINE FALCON. *Falco peregrinus*. Single individuals of this rare raptor were observed at McElroy on 27 May (sub-adult) and 3, 8 and 13 August (immature — same bird also at Chaney on 3 August).

HORNED LARK. *Eremophila alpestris*. Small numbers were present throughout our period of study with up to 50 or more birds present in late winter and early spring in the fields surrounding McElroy. A few immatures were observed being accompanied by adults in the bare areas surrounding McElroy in early summer.

SWALLOWS. Swallows were abundant at the lakes during both spring and late summer. Emerging aquatic insects provided a wealth of food, and it was not uncommon for several hundred individuals of one or more species to be present. Noteworthy observations at McElroy included concentrations in early April (1000+ Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*),

500+ Purple Martins (*Progne subis*), 200+ Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*), and 100+ Cliff Swallows (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*); early May (1000+ birds, mostly Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) and Barn Swallows with good numbers of Purple Martins, at least a dozen Tree Swallows and at least one Cliff Swallow); and August (500+ Banks, small numbers of Cliff, Tree, Barn and martins). Curiously, Northern Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) were usually the least numerous in the area. The late summer concentration of Bank Swallows was reminiscent of assemblages typical of post-breeding flocks in the immediate vicinity of nesting colonies. Presently, nesting of the Bank Swallow is unknown in Kentucky away from the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. A nearly complete albino Barn Swallow was seen on several occasions at McElroy 6 August-10 September.

SEDGE WREN. *Cistothorus platensis*. A single individual sang from a weedy hayfield at McElroy for several weeks in July and early August, and one was flushed from this same area on 7 October, but no evidence of nesting was observed.

WATER PIPIT. *Anthus spinoletta*. This fairly common transient was observed in good numbers at both lakes in spring. The species was present from 19 March (7 birds at McElroy) to 14 May (1 bird at Chaney) with peak counts of at least 150 birds at McElroy on 25 March and as many as 50-75 still there on 29-30 April. Although the lakes were all but gone well before the time most fall migrant pipits arrived, 3-4 birds were observed feeding with shorebirds along the shallow pools at Chaney on 7 October.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. A beautiful individual of the inland race, *A. c. nelsoni*, was studied virtually at leisure by members of a Beckham Bird Club field trip on 20 May for the state's first verified spring record. Further details have been published separately (see KW 66:30-31, 1989).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Calcarius lapponicus*. Two birds were seen and heard calling as they passed over McElroy on 25 March. This species was reported by Wilson (1962) as a rare winter resident or visitant in sc Ky.

BOBOLINK. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Bobolinks were observed on several occasions in the hayfields adjacent to McElroy in May. Flocks of up to 75 or more individuals were seen on at least two occasions. In fall, a few Bobolinks were heard or seen in weedy areas along the shore of McElroy on several dates 2 September-7 October.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. The open farmland surrounding McElroy attracted large numbers of blackbirds in late winter and spring. Among the mixed flocks were small numbers of this poorly known species. The species was seen March 25 (ca. 12 birds), 1 April (ca. 15-20 birds), and 10 April (9 birds). Although Wilson (1962) originally listed only four records for sc Ky. his later summary of additions (Wilson 1969) includes eight more records. This species is probably regular in the open farmland of this area, at least during early spring.

This concludes our summary of bird observations from the transient lakes in 1989. We would like to thank the local landowners of the area, who showed an enthusiastic interest in the waterbirds of the lakes and cooperated willingly in allowing us access to them. We know that we speak for all of those who were able to observe birds at McElroy Lake when we

express a special gratitude to Mr. Joe Neal Ballance for allowing us unlimited access to the area surrounding the lake throughout the season. At Chaney Lake, Mr. and Mrs. James Hunley and the Stahl family were also very cooperative in allowing us to observe waterbirds from their properties, as well. We are also indebted to Mr. Glen Conner, State Climatologist, for supplying data on precipitation for the Bowling Green area.

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- Wilson, Gordon. 1968. The Woodburn lakes, 1963-68 in *The Kentucky Warbler* 44:39-43.
- Wilson, Gordon. 1969. Additions to "Birds of south-central Kentucky" in *The Kentucky Warbler* 45:32-39.
- 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222 (Palmer-Ball) and 568 Hammett Hill, Bowling Green, 42101 (Boggs).

FIELD NOTES

CINNAMON TEAL IN DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY

While birding on 6 April 1991 in the company of Burt L. Monroe, Jr. and my wife Tanya, I observed a pair of Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) in eastern Daviess County, Kentucky. At about 1:15 p.m. EST we were travelling along Iceland Road, approximately seven miles northeast of Owensboro, when Monroe noticed a flock of ducks on the ground and we stopped to look at them. Sixty or more ducks were sitting along the banks of a small stream running through a field, and we saw immediately that most of them were Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*).

Monroe first noted the male Cinnamon Teal sitting with the Blue-winged Teal, and all three of us quickly identified it using our binoculars. I then watched the bird through a 20x spotting scope while Monroe attempted unsuccessfully to videotape it. We all had good views of the rich reddish-brown plumage of the head, neck, breast, and left side of the male. With the scope, I could see its reddish irides as well.

I identified the female Cinnamon Teal as she sat beside the male and near several Blue-winged Teal of both sexes. Both Cinnamon Teal had slightly but distinctly longer bills than the Blue-winged Teal around them, with more spatulate upper mandibles. The female's facial pattern was

plainer than that of nearby Blue-winged Teal, apparently lacking a stripe behind the eye. Also, the mottled brown plumage of her neck, breast, and left side appeared more richly colored than comparable areas on the female Blue-winged Teal.

Both Cinnamon Teal, as well as the Blue-winged Teal they accompanied, appeared quite wary, and small groups of Blue-winged Teal flushed repeatedly as we observed the flock. The Cinnamon Teal flushed twice, the second time flying out of sight to the west about 20 minutes after we had initially seen them. While the male was in flight, we could see the light blue patches formed by his upperwing coverts as well as his green speculum.

This represents the fourth Kentucky record of the Cinnamon Teal (Monroe, Stamm, and Palmer-Ball, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, p. 10; *KW* 66:47, 1990), as well as the first record of a female or of more than one individual of the species occurring together in the state.

— C. MICHAEL STINSON, Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292.

MORTALITY OF MIGRANT BIRDS AT TWO CENTRAL KENTUCKY TV TOWERS

Published information on mortality of nocturnal migrants in Kentucky is practically nonexistent. Lovell (*The Kentucky Warbler* 28:5-6, 1952) reported a kill of more than 75 birds at the Standiford Field ceilometer at Louisville on 7 October 1951. Carpenter and Lovell (*The Kentucky Warbler* 39:19-21, 1963) reported on an unusual mortality that occurred at a gas-compressor station near Magnolia, Larue County on 25 September 1962. Two hundred and seventy individuals of 30 species were identified as a result of this incident. Palmer-Ball and Rauth (*The Kentucky Warbler* 66:97-98, 1990) recently reported on a television transmission tower kill at Henderson, Henderson County on 21 September 1990 involving 128 individuals of 20 species. Details of bird-kills at two additional TV towers in central Kentucky, WGRB-Campbellsville and WAVE-Louisville, are included in the following article.

The WGRB tower is located approximately four miles north of Columbia, Adair County along KY 55. Construction was completed in March 1983, and the station started broadcasting on 7 April 1983. The tower is 1,000 feet tall (950 ft. with a 50 ft. antenna) and triangular in cross section. It is supported by three sets of nine guy wires that extend out to the east, northwest and southwest. The tower is situated on a small knob in moderately rolling terrain at approximately 900 feet elevation. The surrounding land is entirely rural farmland.

The WAVE tower is located along US 42, approximately 20 miles northeast of Louisville near Westport, Oldham County. It was constructed during the spring and summer of 1990 and is 1,739 feet tall. Like the WGRB tower, it is also supported by three sets of guy wires. The tower is located in rolling uplands of approximately 800 feet elevation. The surrounding land is predominately rural farmland.

Visits to the WGRB tower have been made on numerous occasions since 1983, primarily by Elmore. Although visits typically have yielded no observations of dead birds, substantial kills (number of individuals/number of species) have been observed on the following dates: 8 May 1983 (55/16), 14 May 1983 (62/16), 11 October 1986 (113/35), and 17 October 1990

(1576+/59). During the fall of 1990, Palmer-Ball made several visits to the WAVE tower and documented a substantial kill on 20 October 1990 (133/36). Table 1 summarizes observations from these five kills. Additional less significant kills were noted at the WGRB tower on two dates and at the WAVE tower on one. Elmore did not keep notes from a kill of several dozen birds noted on 22 October 1983 that included a male Black-throated Blue Warbler and an adult Virginia Rail. On 24 September 1989, he found 50 Swainson's Thrushes and a Bobolink there, but interestingly, no other species were observed. Palmer-Ball noted four warblers of three species, including a Blackpoll Warbler, at the WAVE tower on 23 September 1990.

On all visits to the towers, searches for casualties were carefully conducted over the surrounding area. Though considerable effort was made to find all casualties, it is certain that some specimens were missed due to the tall grass on some portions of the tower grounds. Each bird was identified and tallied on a master list. Carcasses were usually picked up and deposited in sacks or placed in piles to avoid duplication of counts. There was usually evidence of predation (scattered feathers and partially eaten carcasses) at both towers. Although cats and dogs may have been

Table 1. Significant bird kills recorded at the WGRB and WAVE towers.

| Species | 5-08-83 WGRB | 5-14-83 WGRB | 10-11-86 WGRB | 10-17-90 WGRB | 10-20-90 WAVE |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sora | — | — | — | 1 | 1 * |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | — | — | — | 1 * | — |
| Chimney Swift | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | — | — | — | — | 1 * |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | — | — | — | 3 | 1 |
| Northern Flicker | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Brown Creeper | — | — | 1 | 1 * | — |
| House Wren | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Winter Wren | — | — | 4 | 3 | — |
| Marsh Wren | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | — | — | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | — | — | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| kinglet sp. | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Veery | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | — | — | 2 | 16 | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 8 | 2 | 2 | 86 (1L) | 2 |
| Hermit Thrush | — | — | 1 | 5 | — |
| Wood Thrush | 1 | — | 6 | 28 | 5 |
| thrush sp. | — | — | — | 10 | 1 |
| Gray Catbird | — | 4 | 4 | 48 | 9 |
| White-eyed Vireo | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| Solitary Vireo | — | — | — | 2 | 1 ** |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | — | — | 1 | 4 | — |
| Philadelphia Vireo | — | 1 | 1 | 14 | 2 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 12 | 35 | 2 | 72 | 7 |
| Blue-winged Warbler | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Golden-winged Warbler | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Tennessee Warbler | 1 | 2 | 7 | 137 | 5 |
| Nashville Warbler | — | — | 4 | 1 | 2 |

| Species | 5-08-83 WGRB | 5-14-83 WGRB | 10-11-86 WGRB | 10-17-90 WGRB | 10-20-90 WAVE |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Northern Parula | — | — | 1 L | 3 | — |
| Yellow Warbler | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | — | 2 | 1 | 34 | 4 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 2 | 1 | 14 | 97 (1L) | 7 |
| Cape May Warbler | 1 | — | — | 3 | — |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | — | — | — | 5 | 2 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 1 | — | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| Black-thr. Green Warbler | — | — | 4 | 69 | 5 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | 1 | 5 | — | 23 | — |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Pine Warbler | — | — | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Palm Warbler | — | — | 1 | 46 | 16 |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | 1 | 2 | 4 | 213 (2L) | 1 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 3 | — | — | 4 | — |
| Black-and-white Warbler | — | — | — | 30 | 1 |
| American Redstart | — | 1 | 5 | 6 | — |
| Worm-eating Warbler | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Swainson's Warbler | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Ovenbird | 1 | 1 | 13 | 376 (2L) | 10 |
| Northern Waterthrush | — | — | — | 9 | — |
| Common Yellowthroat | — | 1 | 4 | 52 | 7 |
| Kentucky Warbler | 10 | — | — | — | — |
| Connecticut Warbler | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Hooded Warbler | — | — | 1 | 21 | — |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| warbler sp. | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Scarlet Tanager | — | 2 | 2 | 24 | 1 |
| Summer Tanager | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Northern Cardinal | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | — | — | — | 13 | 1 |
| Indigo Bunting | — | 1 | 4 | 46 | — |
| Savannah Sparrow | — | — | — | 14 | — |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | — | — | — | — | 1 ** |
| Field Sparrow | — | — | 1 | — | 1 ** |
| Chipping Sparrow | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Song Sparrow | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | — | — | — | — | 4 (2**) |
| Swamp Sparrow | — | — | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| White-throated Sparrow | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 * |
| White-crowned Sparrow | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| unidentified | 10 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Number of species | 16 | 16 | 35 | 59 | 36 |
| Number of individuals | 55 | 62 | 113 | 1576 | 133 |
| Probable date of majority of kill | 1st wk May | 14 May | 1st wk Oct. | 12 Oct. | 12 Oct. |

* — condition of specimen(s) indicated probably killed prior to probable date given.

** — condition of specimen(s) indicated probably killed subsequent to probable date given.

L — bird(s) found alive.

the primary culprits, the possibility of raptors could not be ruled out. Invertebrates, especially ants and slugs, were also quick to find the bird carcasses. On some dates, specimens were in excellent condition and were frozen for future museum skin preparation.

Weather conditions prior to tower visits were usually recorded. The spring 1983 visits to the WGRB tower were made after periods of overcast days, accompanied by intermittent rain, sometimes heavy. Showers associated with a passing cold front on the night of 7 May 1983, dropped more than three-quarters of an inch of rain and were accompanied by a drop in temperatures into the mid-40s. An overcast and rainy day and night preceded the 14 May 1983 visit, with over an inch of precipitation on 13 May. While most specimens were in poor condition on 8 May, many were in excellent condition on 14 May. The October 1990 kill at the WGRB tower was by far the most substantial. Most or all mortality apparently occurred during the night of 11-12 October 1990 (*fide* Mike Harding, Station Manager) with some minor kill possibly occurring subsequently through the night of 16-17 October 1990. None of the carcasses appeared to have been exposed to general rainfall that occurred 10-11 October prior to passage of a cold front. Most carcasses found at the WAVE tower on 20 October were at least several days old, and it is probable that most mortality occurred during the same night of 11-12 October that caused for the large mortality at WRGB.

As seems to be characteristic of most reports of tower mortality in the eastern United States, significant kills were somewhat similar, although each had several noteworthy aspects. Of the two spring kills at WGRB in 1983, it is interesting that 40% of all birds found (47 of 117) were Red-eyed Vireos. In contrast, they made up less than 5 % of fall kills there (74 of 1689). Warblers made up 33% of all birds found in the spring at WGRB (39 of 117) but 72% of all birds found there in the fall (1210 of 1689). The total of ten Kentucky Warblers found on 8 May 1983 represented a surprising 25% of the warblers.

We were somewhat unprepared for the magnitude of the October 1990 kill at the WGRB tower, but it is surprisingly comparable in numbers of individuals and variety of species to some of the more significant kills we could find in literature accounts. The total list had several noteworthy occurrences including the Swainson's Warbler and the late Yellow Warbler. In addition, the high numbers of several species was astonishing; these included five Black-throated Blue Warblers, five Pine Warblers, four Blackpoll Warblers and 21 Hooded Warblers. As noted in Table 1, at least six birds were observed alive and injured at the tower on 14 October. The total of 1576 birds does not include an undetermined number of specimens picked up and disposed of by TV station staff prior to Elmore's initial visit on the 14th, nor does it include additional specimens (number uncertain, perhaps as many as several hundred) that were probably present, but that we did not find because we ran out of time.

The WAVE tower kill in mid-October 1990 yielded several noteworthy records. The Connecticut Warbler and Sharp-tailed Sparrow were especially unusual; the latter represents the first specimen record for the state.

It is unfortunate that the presence of large TV transmission towers presents such a hazard to nocturnal migrant birds. However, the opportunity to gain useful scientific information as a result of these events should not be ignored, and every effort should be made to check towers regularly during migration. We would like to thank Mr. Bryan McFarland (former) and Mr. Michael Harding (current) station managers for

34-WGRB TV, Campbellsville and Mr. Guy Hempel, station manager for WAVE-3 TV, Louisville, for their cooperation in allowing us to conduct these investigations.

— Jackie B. Elmore, Sr., 1940 Heaton-Ford Road, Science Hill, 42553 and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville 40222.

BOOK REVIEW

AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF TENNESSEE, by John C. Robinson. Published by the University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee. 284 pp., \$29.95. 1990.

This publication is important to those interested in ornithological studies in Tennessee. The author formerly was assistant refuge manager at Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge in Dover, Tennessee and is now a wildlife biologist for the USDA Forest Service in Hayward, Wisconsin. He follows the pattern of other checklist authors in providing information on all bird species reported in the state (373 species) and brief information as to the time of year, region of the state, and habitat in which to expect each species. He also provides early and late arrival and departure dates for each species in each of the three regions of the state (west, middle, and east Tennessee). He describes the topographic regions, and maps showing the geographic and topographic divisions, counties, and the locations of the 42 breeding survey routes are included.

The publication is more than an annotated checklist. Interesting accounts of the history of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and the history of the state bird list are given. Birding activities in the state are provided, including the breeding bird atlas project, annual autumn hawk counts, bird banding activities, Christmas bird counts, and breeding bird surveys. A table shows breeding bird species on the increase and on the decline. Classification includes the order, family, scientific name, and common name of each species.

The status of each species is based on the number of times seen in the state in the past 20 years (since 1968). Robinson gives more precise definitions of status and abundance (frequency of occurrence) than do most writers of similar works. As an example his definition of Extremely Rare is as follows: "Species recorded in the state at least six times, with 3-15 records in the past 20 years (i.e., seen once every few years, or less)." Other status terms are Regular, Irregular, Accidental, Extirpated, Extinct, Escape, Provisional, and Hypothetical; each of these terms is precisely defined. Thirty-three species have been selected for presentation on maps showing counties in which a species is known to breed or the counties in which a species has been reported. Evidence that each of the 373 species has been recorded in Tennessee is given under the heading, substantiation; this is usually in the form of a collected specimen but may also consist of a photograph, sound recording, or acceptable documented sight record. This information will be of little interest to most readers.

K.O.S. members will probably be interested in comparing this publication with the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky (reviewed in *The Kentucky Warbler*, Vol. 65, No. 3, August, 1989). Both publications are excellent and provide the information for which they are intended. This writer prefers the bar graphs in the Kentucky checklist for summarizing the occurrence and abundance of each species, but Tennessee readers may prefer the listing of the date and locality of arrivals and

departures for each species in each of the three regions of Tennessee. This procedure greatly increases the length and expense of the Tennessee publication: I also prefer the smaller size and the paperback construction of the Kentucky checklist, making it easier to carry into the field or insert in a field guide. The Tennessee checklist is 200 pages longer and provides much more ornithological information.

In summary, ornithologists and particularly those interested in the birdlife of Tennessee are indebted to John C. Robinson for a thorough, precise account of birds and birding in Tennessee.

— H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held on September 27-29, 1991 at Pine Mountain State Resort Park. Members planning to attend should make reservations for room accommodations as soon as possible. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening meeting should contact Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005. Members are encouraged to bring one or two slides for the photo-quiz portion of the Friday evening program.

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THE NESTING SEASON, 1991

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

The months of June and July were unusually warm. In Louisville the temperature hovered between 90 to 95 degrees on 11 days in June, and in July between 90 to 96 degrees on 20 days. Drought conditions prevailed throughout the state. Shrubs and trees were under stress due to both the lack of rain and the high temperatures. In some places the ground was so dry that it "cracked." The extreme heat and high humidity kept some birders from going afield. Nevertheless, those that did go out found some interesting birds such as the Willow Flycatcher in Hopkins County, Henslow's Sparrow in eight counties, Cliff Swallows breeding in Pulaski County, Bewick's Wrens nesting in Hardin County, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks summering in northern Kentucky, to name a few.

James W. Hancock took 12 June counts (June 1-27) in Hopkins County. These counts were taken in the morning for about 4 hours or more in a different section of the county each day to note the distribution of the birds. His records and comments from others indicate that some species are declining slightly, among these are the Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Warbling Vireo, Orchard Oriole and Northern Oriole.

Publication of any unusual sighting of birds in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted as records for the official checklist of Kentucky Birds. Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and will be reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations: BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; McA = McAlpine Dam (Falls of the Ohio), Louisville, Jefferson County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County.

Loons through Herons — A nonbreeding Common Loon lingered through June 22 at Taylorsville Lake, Spencer County (DC). A single Double-crested Cormorant was noted perched in a tree at Shippingport Island, July 15 and four in the same area, July 27 (LR). There were fewer Great Blue Herons in Ballard County this season, but elsewhere in western Kentucky they were common and widely distributed. The Calloway herony appeared to be growing (CP). Other sightings included one flying over north of Bighill, in southern Madison County, June 19 (CMS); 9 below McA, July 26 (LR); and 6 at Lake Pewee, Hopkins County, July 30 (KC, LR). A Great Egret appeared at McA, June 21 and 4 at the same location, July 26 (LR); 3 at Lake #9, Fulton County, July 17 (CP); and 17 on trees on the levee, Fulton County and Lake #9, July 30 (CP). A few Snowy Egrets were observed in July: 1 at McA, July 7 (LR); 1, BWMA (no date given, CP); 1 at Falls of the Ohio, July 15 (KC, LR). An adult Little Blue Heron was seen in the pools below McA, June 27-July 31 (LR); flock of 50, chiefly second-year birds, in the vicinity of Laketon, Carlisle County, July 11 (CP); 4 (1 adult, 3 first-year young) at BWMA, July 30 (CP); 1 at SWMA, July 30 (KC, LR). Cattle Egrets were numerous in western Kentucky in late July: 62 at a pond several miles south of La Center, Ballard County; 5 at BWMA, and 3 along a roadside pond in Ballard County as well as small groups in several places totaling 16 birds, Carlisle County, all on July 30 (CP). No others were reported in Kentucky;

however, 7 were seen in Floyd County, Indiana, just across the Ohio River from the Falls of the Ohio, while members of the BBC were on a field trip in Indiana. Average numbers of Green-backed Herons were found in western Kentucky (CP); 3 below McA, June 27 (LR); 6 around a small pond in the reclaimed strip mine area near Ano, Pulaski County, July 27 (JEL); and 1 at SWMA, July 30 (KC, LR); none along Seneca Park Beargrass Creek, Louisville (S, FS). There was little mention of the Black-crowned Night-Herons, but at least 28-35 (both adults and immatures) were seen at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County, July 7 (S, FS); 4 flying over south-central Jefferson County in late July (DS). Three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted at the Falls of the Ohio, June 14 (LR) and a few were there July 7 (S, FS).

Waterfowl — The KBRC accepted the record of an immature Tundra Swan sighted on April 13 on McElroy Lake, Warren County. There were a few records of Canada Geese: a female incubating at Burlington, Boone County during April, and an adult with young at Lake Jerico, Henry County, May 29 (LMc). A female Wood Duck was seen on a nest near Petersburg, Boone County, April 7-14, young out of the nest during June (LMc); female with a brood of 7 and 1 with 3 young at East Bend, Boone County, May 28 (LMc); females with broods at Lake Jerico, May 29 (LMc, KCa); female with fledged young, near Inez, Martin County, June 4 (CMS). Also, a female Wood Duck was seen with 4-6 very young ducklings on a pond in Ten Broeck subdivision, northeast Jefferson County, June 22 (S, FS); another female with half-grown young on the North Fork of the Licking River (border Robertson and Bracken counties), July 3 (CMS); several family clusters totaling about 20 birds observed along Beargrass Creek between Trevilian Way and Eastern Parkway, Jefferson County, July 19 (BM). Also observed at BPS at various times during the period (KC). Seven American Black Ducks had returned to SWMA by July 30 (KC, LR).

Hawks — No Black Vulture nests were reported, but 4 individuals were seen in Hickman County, north of Murphy's Pond at a permanent roost, June 15 (CP); and 6 at a roost in the vicinity of Bondurant, Fulton County, July 17 (CP). Twenty-nine Turkey Vultures were seen at the roost in Hickman County noted above, June 16 and 25 birds in the Fulton County roost in the vicinity of Bondurant, July 17 (CP); and 22 were on the rock ledge below McA on July 26 (LR). Quite encouraging were the 6 Osprey nests found in LBL (9 young from these nests were banded). The nests were located between Barkley Dam and Route 68 and 80 that crosses Lake Barkley (WB). A few Mississippi Kites were observed along their traditional sites, but they were fewer in number this year (CP). There were 2 nests of the Bald Eagle found in LBL this season: 1 bird fledged from a nest at Mammoth Furnace Bay and two fledged from a nest at Fulton Bay (WB). There were few Northern Harriers compared to the summer of 1989. In fact, only one report was received and that was of an immature or female at Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County or July 30 (KC). A Cooper's Hawk was seen in Hardin County near Elizabeth town, at the junction of 251 and 3005 (Ring Road), June 7 (CMS); and 1 noted during the period at BPS (KC). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawk was seen together in Martin County south of the town of Kermit on June 6 (CMS). Two Broad-winged Hawks were seen east of Monterey, Owen County, June 4 and may have been a nesting pair, and a single bird was seen near Union, Boone County, July 20 (LMc). Twelve nests of the Red-tailed Hawk were found in the Danville area during the spring month

(William Kemper, *vide* FL). An albinistic Red-tailed Hawk was observed on and off since spring near New Concord, Calloway County (Sherry and Tom Sherwood, *vide* CP). The only Peregrine Falcon reported was an adult bird which was seen perched on a building in downtown Louisville (only a few blocks from the Ohio River), on July 2. The bird was banded on both legs (JB, PB, John Bell).

Grouse through Cranes — The only report of the Ruffed Grouse was an adult standing in the roadway east of Livingston, Rockcastle County, June 27 (CMS). Two adult Wild Turkeys were noted with 14 young entering Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve, June 23 (KCa, JCa). Northern Bobwhites appeared to be having a good year. In southeastern Kentucky during Breeding Bird Atlas work, the birds were found in the following counties: northern Letcher, eastern Madison, western Estill, west of Louisa in Lawrence, Martin, Robertson, western Mason, and Laurel (CMS). Also, there were 55 birds on the Eastview (Hardin and Meade counties) U.S. Fish and Wildlife BBS (BM), 20 birds on the Radcliff (Hardin County) U.S. Fish and Wildlife BBS (KC, Alita Wilson); and 2 or more at BPS during the period (KC). An American Coot was seen as late as July 12 on Kentucky Lake, Trigg County (G. Boaz, *vide* CP). The two Sandhill Cranes noted flying over Hardin County, about 10 miles south of Elizabethtown, June 4 were unexpected (Sally Brown, BM *et al.*).

Shorebirds through Terns — There were good numbers of Killdeer in western Kentucky, but there were no concentrations over 25 (CP). The majority of fall migrant shorebirds returned in late July. Five Greater Yellowlegs were at Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County, July 30 and 1 at SWMA on the same date (KC, LR). However, a Solitary Sandpiper had arrived quite early at a pond on a horse farm, north of Lexington, Fayette County, July 5 (WD) and another at SWMA, July 30 (KC, LR). Few Spotted Sandpipers were reported: 1 at Falls of the Ohio, July 7 (FS, S); 1 on Kentucky Lake, Trigg County, July 14 (CP); 1 observed at SWMA, July 30 (KC, LR). Twenty-three Semipalmated Sandpipers were observed in Fulton County at Lake #9, July 17 (CP); 9 in the same area, July 30 (CP); 6 at Paradise Steam Plant, July 30 (KC, LR); 12 at Mitchell Lake, BWMA, July 30 (CP); and 1 at SWMA, July 30 (KC, LR). A Western Sandpiper, uncommon in fall, was noted at Paradise Steam Plant, July 30 (LR). Six Least Sandpipers were first reported at Lake #9, July 17 (CP); 16 at Mitchell Lake, July 30 (CP); and 2 at SWMA, July 30 (KC, LR). The only Pectoral Sandpipers reported were the 11 at Mitchell Lake (CP), 2 at SWMA (KC, LR), and 4 at Paradise Steam Plant (LR, KC), all on July 30. A single Stilt Sandpiper was found at Mitchell Lake, July 30 (CP). Four Caspian Terns were seen in the vicinity of Laketon over the Mississippi River, Carlisle County, July 30 (CP). Small numbers of Least Terns were noted during the entire period scattered at Lake #9 and on both the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers (CP).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — An adult Black-billed Cuckoo was seen carrying food (presumably feeding young) in western Martin County, June 6 (CMS); and 1 heard, Middle Creek Road, Boone County, July 4 (LMc). Three to four Yellow-billed Cuckoos were present during June at BPS (KC); and 32 were found in Hopkins County on 11 of the 12 June trips (JH). A nest of the Eastern Screech-Owl with young was found near Big Bone, Boone County, May 11 (LMc); adults feeding young at nest, Burlington, Boone County, May 18 (KCa, JCa); and heard in woods in back of Staghorn Drive, eastern Jefferson County, during the period

(DN). A Great Horned Owl was found on its nest at Big Bone, March 2 and 2 grown young there, April 13 (LMc); and 1 heard during the period back of Staghorn Drive (DN). The only Chuck-wills-widows reported were the 2 heard at BPS during June (KC). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds apparently had a good season. The birds were common at feeders throughout Pulaski County, with 2 or more at most feeders (JEl); 5 at feeders in a yard at Science Hill, Pulaski County, July 14 (JEl); 10 males and 5 females were the maximum numbers at BPS (no specific dates given, KC). Wally Brines had a maximum of 28 birds at his five feeders in Murray, Calloway County, July 31. A pair of Belted Kingfishers was observed chasing each other and calling excitedly as they flew over the small lake in the Ten Broeck subdivision, northeastern Jefferson County, June 9-15. The birds probably nested in the area near the lake, or along the bank of nearby Little Goose Creek since they were observed again on June 19 and July 23 (S). An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was feeding young at a nest near Burlington, July 4 (LMc); 4 summering during June and July at BPS (KC); a pair noted in the Ten Broeck subdivision (FS, S). Red-headed Woodpeckers have retained their numbers this year in the Lexington area, but Northern Flickers "are nearly gone" (WD).

Flycatchers through Swallows — A total of 51 Eastern Wood-Pewees was recorded on the 12 June counts in Hopkins County (JH). Nests of the Acadian Flycatcher were found along Middle Creek Road, June 1 and at Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, Boone County, June 3 (LMc); 1 bird on the Radcliff BBS June 7 (KC, AW); and 9 recorded on 5 of the 12 Hopkins County June counts (JH). The Willow Flycatcher summered again near Petersburg, Boone County (LMc); 2, Radcliff BBS, June 7 (KC, AW); 1 in the vicinity of Elk Creek Bridge, Hopkins County, June 1 and again on June 12 (JH). Nesting of the Eastern Phoebe was observed at several locations, especially in Boone County (LMc). There was little comment about the Great Crested Flycatcher, but a pair nested in the neighborhood of Briarwood Park, northeastern Jefferson County (DN); 2 present at BPS (KC); and 14 recorded on 9 June counts in Hopkins County (JH). Nesting Purple Martins were fewer in number in the Louisville area while the largest postbreeding concentration consisted of 5,000 to 10,000 in eastern Jefferson County, near Prospect, late July (BM, CMS, photographed and videotaped); of interest is that the martins roosted in trees among a summer starling-blackbird congregation. Summering Tree Swallows were noted at East Bend, Boone County and nested successfully in a bluebird box near Burlington where building took place on May 4, male feeding young June 15 (LMc); 1 perched in a dead tree at Cimmarron Marsh, Hopkins County, June 15 (JH). Also, good numbers successfully nested in southern Ohio County (BF). No nests were found at Long Run County Park, Jefferson County where they nested formerly (FS). Bank Swallows were again observed entering nesting cavities at a Bellevue, Boone County gravel pit, May 11 and the sandy bank of the ash pond of the East Bend Power Plant on the same date (LMc, JCa, KCa, TS). Nest-building of Cliff Swallows was noted at the Woolper Creek Bridge, Boone County, May 11 (LMc); 40+ nests at Markland Dam, Gallatin County, May 29 (LMc, KCa); nests in northwestern Pulaski County, near Ansel, June 25 — a new county breeding record (JEl); and 1 nest observed, with 1 adult flying around, under a bridge along I-65 in eastern Bath County, July 6, also providing a new county breeding record (CMS).

Crows through Shrikes — What happened to the Fish Crows? Only one heard in the entire area during the period (CP). The Carolina Wren

was doing well in northeastern Jefferson (S, DN) and Grayson counties (KC). Also, the species was fairly common in Hopkins County with 134 birds recorded on the 12 June counts (JH). There were 3 reports of the Bewick's Wren: a pair west of Berea, Madison County, at the entrance to the Berea landfill, the male singing, June 19 (CMS); an adult with 4 young at Bonnieville, Hardin County during the period (GE); and 1, at U. of K. agriculture farm, Fayette County, July 11 (WD). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers apparently are decreasing. There were only 3 birds recorded on 2 of the June counts in Hopkins County, 1 at Cimmarron Marsh, and 2 along HWY 503 south of Coiltown (JH). The only other report was of an adult bird on a nest in Robertson County, July 3 (CMS). Eastern Bluebirds were numerous in northern Jefferson and southwestern Oldham counties, where a "trail" of boxes had been erected and studied (FK); nest with 5 white eggs noted in Calloway County, and all eggs hatched and young fledged (WB). Fair numbers were found nesting in Trigg County (WB). Wood Thrushes continue to be in low numbers: 17 birds tabulated on only 7 of the 12 June counts in Hopkins County (JH); and a recently fledged young noted at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Floyd County, June 4 (CMS). Gray Catbirds continue to be low in numbers particularly in the Louisville area and are absent in many suitable habitats where formerly they were nesting birds (S). The species may be declining in Hopkins County as only 10 birds were found on 5 of the June counts (JH). There were few comments on the Cedar Waxwing, although nests were found along Middle Creek in western Boone County in June and at 2 Henry County locations, May 29 (LMc). There are resident Loggerhead Shrikes now at the U. of K. Farm, Lexington — a new development, according to Professor Wayne Davis. Only 5 birds were recorded on 2 of the 12 June counts in Hopkins County, 4 of these were along Smith Todd Road, east of Madisonville (JH).

Vireos through Warblers — A White-eyed Vireo was seen feeding a juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird, north of Hazard in Perry County, June 13 (CMS). A Solitary Vireo was noted singing in western Martin County, June 6 (CMS); and 2 were heard singing at Bad Branch Nature Preserve, Letcher County, June 13 (CMS). Two nests of the Yellow-throated Vireo were found on the Radcliff BBS, June 7 (KC, AW); and fair numbers were recorded in Hopkins County (JH). The Warbling Vireo has disappeared from two locations in Seneca Park, Louisville, where it formerly nested (S). Three Warbling Vireos were seen at Lake Pewee, June 5 and 1 at Loch Mary, Earlington, Hopkins County, June 7 (JH); 3 counted on the Radcliff BBS, June 7 (KC, AW). Nesting records of the Blue-winged Warbler included an adult bird carrying food to young at Dinsmore Woods, Boone County, May 30 and June 1 (LMc); adult feeding 5 young at nest, Middle Creek Road, Burlington, June 2 (KCa, JCa). Several birds noted in central and southern Lawrence County, June 5 and in Martin County, June 4 and 6 (CMS); also in Letcher and Perry counties in June (CMS). A pair of Yellow Warblers was seen feeding young out of the nest along Middle Creek in late June (LMc). A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen gathering nesting material at the campground of Carter Caves State Resort Park, April 27 (LMc *et al.*). A Pine Warbler was seen and heard in strip mine country in west Muhlenberg County, June 9 (CP); another in pines in northern Hopkins County at the Pete Gibson Road, almost at the Webster County line (JH); and a singing male at James Hancock's home area in Madisonville at the end of July. The Cerulean Warbler was found scattered in eastern Kentucky, nowhere commonly; an adult with young noted in northern Jackson County, June 26 (CMS); and adults also

recorded in Lee, Martin, and Perry counties in June (CMS). The American Redstart was scattered across eastern Kentucky, not abundant, and recorded in the following counties: Letcher, Martin, Perry, and northern Jackson during June (CMS). A nest of the Prothonotary Warbler was found in East Bend, May 28 (LMc, KCa). An adult Worm-eating Warbler was noted carrying food to a nest at the Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, June 3, and recently fledged young were seen out of the nest on June 22 (LMc); a fledged young observed in southern Madison County, June 19 (CMS). Although never very common, adult birds were scattered across the following eastern counties: Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Letcher, and Perry during June (CMS). Three singing Swainson's Warblers were found along Bad Branch in Letcher County, June 13; also observed by others at the same location both before and after this date ("i.e., three males were on territory here this summer" — CMS). A Louisiana Waterthrush was seen feeding a fledgling near Carrollton, Carroll County, May 29 (LMc); only 1 found in June in the Ilsley area, Hopkins County (JH). An adult Kentucky Warbler was feeding young at the nest at Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, June 9 (KCa, JCa); and fair numbers in Hopkins County (JH). The Common Yellowthroat was present in good numbers in Hopkins County (JH). A Hooded Warbler nest with 1 young and 1 unhatched cowbird egg was seen at Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, June 7 (LMc). The Yellow-breasted Chat has disappeared from some sites in Hopkins County but is doing well in others; 53 were recorded on the 12 June counts (JH).

Tanagers through Finches — There seemed to be a slight decrease in the Summer Tanagers sighted in Hopkins County this year over last summer (JH). Two Scarlet Tanagers were found in Hopkins County: one at Olive Branch Church, northwest of Madisonville, June 19, and the other at Brazzle Bridge area, vicinity of Pond River and McLean County, June 26 (JH). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were summering in northern Kentucky for the first time. Nesting behavior was noted along Middle Creek Road, May 11, and the pair remained through mid-June (LMc, KCa, JCa, TS); another singing male was noted at Dinsmore Woods, June 1 (LMc). The Blue Grosbeak was seen at a feeder at BPS in July and also observed in Ohio (KC) and Hopkins counties (JH). Numbers appear to be increasing in the latter county. Indigo Buntings appear to be stable. Two Dickcissels were found on reclaimed strip mine land, near Ano, Pulaski County, June 24 (JEl); on later visits the birds could not be found. Fair numbers noted in Hopkins (JH) and Ohio counties (KC); and 1 singing south of Oxford, Scott County, July 3 (CMS). While Rufous-sided Towhees appear to be scarce in some areas, they are doing well in Hopkins County where 77 were recorded on the 12 June counts (JH). Savannah Sparrows (2 pairs) were found on a horse farm, north of Lexington, Fayette County, through June, and on July 11 the species was found there at 4 locations (WD). Breeding of the Grasshopper Sparrow was observed in Henry County, where an adult bird was seen carrying food to young, May 29 (LMc, KCa); several birds noted at reclaimed strip mine land near Ano, July 24 (JEl); and 10 immatures were observed along the roadside in this area, July 27 (JEl); also, numerous in Ohio County (BBC). Singing Henslow's Sparrows were heard near Sadieville, Scott County and at Mason, Grant County, June 4 (LMc); 2 or more in northern Laurel County, June 25, in eastern Madison County on Army Depot property, June 26 (CMS); west of Mt. Olivet in Robertson and Bracken counties, July 3 (CMS); 1 along Gooch-town, Loop Road in northern Pulaski County, July 17 (JEl); and also observed in Ohio County (KC). It was interesting that there were 28 Song Sparrows recorded on 5 of the 12 June counts taken in Hopkins County

where summer records have been few. The species was most common in the Elk Creek area (JH). Nest-building of the Orchard Oriole was noted near Petersburg, May 11 (LMc); only 8 birds were listed on 5 of the 12 June counts in Hopkins County (JH). The species has obviously declined there in recent years (JH), which also seems to be true in some parts of Jefferson County (S). A nest of the Northern Oriole was found at Dinsmore Woods, with an adult on the nest, June 1 (LMc); 1 bird noted northeast of Madisonville, June 1, but the species was not recorded in some places in Hopkins County where found last year (JH); 4 birds at BPS, June 20 (KC). This species was not found at 2 locations in Seneca Park, where it has nested for years (S). Five nests of the House Finch (3 in hanging fern baskets, 2 in evergreen trees) in adjacent yards were successful in south-central Louisville (VJ, WJ); 20-25 present in Valley Station yard, southwestern Jefferson County, during July (DS). A flock of Red Cross-bills was present at a feeder in Elizabethtown, Hardin County in early June and moved on during mid-June (BBC); 2 birds observed there, June 7 (CMS).

Contributors — Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Wally Brines (WB), Joe Caminiti (JCa), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Kathryn Clay (KC), Dona Coates (DC), Jackie Elmore (JEl), George Elliott (GE), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Richard Healy (RH), Violet Jackson (VJ), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Frank Krull Sr. (FK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Thomas Stephens (TS), C. Michael Stinson (CMS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Alita Wilson (AW).

— Anne L. Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, and Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville 40292.

Corrigendum — The following correction is necessary for the Winter Season, 1990-1991 report (*Ky. War.* Vol. 67:28, 1991). The duck population at BWMA reached 50,000, the highest number since 1970, not 1972.

KENTUCKY BALD EAGLE COUNT FOR 1991

JAMES DURELL AND DAVID YANCY

Target dates for the 1991 eagle census were January 7 or 8, within a time frame of January 3-17. Weather was unusually mild in Kentucky and in the northern eagle range. This may have held eagles and their waterfowl prey north of Kentucky. The count dropped from 322 in 1990 to 172 in 1991.

The percentage of immature Bald Eagles decreased for the second consecutive year (36%, 33%, 24%).

In 1991, seven eaglets were fledged from four of six active nests at Land Between the Lakes and Ballard Waterfowl Area.

Table I summarizes the 1991 census, with some earlier high records, and the 1990 count.

**TABLE I—Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 3-17, 1991,
with some earlier high counts.**

| ROUTE | 1991 | | | | Earlier records | |
|---------------------------|------|------|-------|------|-----------------|------|
| | Ad. | Imm. | Total | 1990 | High | Year |
| Land Between the Lakes | 55 | 17 | 72 | 112 | 112 | 1990 |
| Blood River - S. Calloway | | | | 2 | 2 | 1990 |
| Mississippi River | 25 | 6 | 31 | 43 | 72 | 1984 |
| Ohio R., to Carrsville | 17 | 6 | 27* | 49 | 89 | 1986 |
| Ohio River, to Owensboro | 2 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 1989 |
| Ohio River, to Louisville | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1986 |
| Bernheim Forest | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1990 |
| Nolin R. Lake | | | 1† | 3 | 3 | 1990 |
| Barren R. Lake | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1989 |
| Green River Lake | 2 | 5 | 9† | 6 | 12 | 1986 |
| Dale Hollow, Ky. portion | 4 | | 4 | 20 | 38 | 1989 |
| Lake Cumberland | 7 | 1 | 8 | 26 | 26 | 1990 |
| Cumberland R., below dam | | | | 4 | 8 | 1986 |
| Cave Run Lake | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 1989 |
| Grayson Lake | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1989 |
| Laurel Lake | 2 | | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1985 |
| Martin's Fork | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1988 |
| Dewey Lake | | | | 1 | 1 | 1990 |
| Total Bald Eagles | 121 | 39 | 167† | | | |
| Golden Eagles | | | 5 | | | |

* Ballard Co. Wildlife Area reported 5 adult, 3 juvenile, and 3 age-unknown Bald Eagles.

† Totals include Bald Eagles, age unknown.

5 Golden Eagles: 2 immature and 1 adult, Bernheim Forest. 1 immature, Lake Barkley. 1 not aged, Fort Knox.

Dale Hollow: Tennessee portion reported 64 eagles.

Eagles within 15 miles of similar birds previously reported were not added to the totals.

Fifty-five observers in 28 parties reported 267 other raptors. Thirty-nine parties reported 394 in 1990. Seven year totals are in parentheses: Black Vulture 19 (111); Turkey Vulture 34 (62); Osprey 1 (2); Northern Harrier 1 (32); Sharp-shinned Hawk 3 (14); Cooper's Hawk 3 (12); Northern Goshawk 0 (1); Red-shouldered Hawk 5 (21); Red-tailed Hawk 70 (488); Rough-legged Hawk 0 (12); American Kestrel 123 (633); Merlin 0 (1); Peregrine Falcon 0 (3, in 1990, not verified by a biologist); unidentified hawks 5 (27); Barn Owl 0 (1).

Last year there were 185 observers in 86 parties. This year there were 147 people in 66 parties, representing the Kentucky Ornithological Society, federal and state Fish and Wildlife agencies, TVA, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Knox, National Park Service, Kentucky Dept. of Parks, Audubon Society and Bernheim Forest.

— Kentucky Ornithological Society, 308 Meadow Lane, Frankfort.

— Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Frankfort 40601.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 27-29, 1991

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 68th annual meeting at Pine Mountain State Resort Park on September 27-29, 1991. Virginia Kingsolver, President, opened the Friday evening meeting with a welcome to members and guests. Lee McNeely, Vice-president, introduced the evening program speakers. Paul Klatt, an Eastern Kentucky University graduate student, presented the results of his study on the effect of mate removal on singing behavior of male and female Eastern Screech-Owls. Mike Stinson gave an update on operation of Kentucky's birding hotline. Information regarding 70 species had been utilized. Mike also gave some information about membership in the American Birding Association. Richard Hannon, Director of the Kentucky Nature Preserves, told the Society about the current status of Chaney Lake and other Preserve actions and holdings in Kentucky. Blaine Ferrell presented some results of his ongoing study of the breeding biology of the southern population of Tree Swallows. Virginia Kingsolver showed the new KOS membership brochure and pointed out two new illustrations provided to the Society by artist Ray Harm. She also thanked Jim Williams for his work developing the new brochure. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., provided an update on the status of the Breeding Bird Atlas. The evening program concluded with the member's photo quiz and slide show. Ray Harm's original pencil drawings were on display during the informal social hour that followed the program.

The weather for the Saturday morning field trips was cool and clear at the higher elevations with heavy fog in the valleys. Lee McNeely led one field trip in the lodge area and Mike Stinson led a second trip to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and the Pinnacle to observe hawk migration.

The Board of Directors met at 1:30 p.m. in the Ray Harm Room at the lodge.

A special business meeting was called to order by Virginia Kingsolver, President, at 3:35 p.m. in the Ray Harm Room to consider revisions in the By-laws of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

Dona Coates, Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, gave a financial report for the Society. The total assets of the KOS, as of 25 September 1991, were \$17,105.87.

Members of the By-laws Revision Committee were: Blaine R. Ferrell, Virginia Kingsolver (ex officio), Clell Peterson, chairman, Burt Monroe, Jr., Herbert Shadowen and Anne Stamm.

Virginia Kingsolver introduced Chairman Clell Peterson who presented the By-laws revisions as approved by the Board of Directors for approval by the membership. Discussion of the revisions followed and questions pertaining to eliminating the Curator position (Article III, Section E) developed. As a result Chairman Peterson suggested the Curator and references to the position be excepted from the vote on acceptance to the revisions. Chairman Peterson said the By-laws Committee would reconsider the position and duties of the Curator. Clell Peterson moved that the By-laws Revisions (excepting the areas dealing with the Curator) be accepted. The membership voted to accept the motion as stated.

Virginia Kingsolver and the membership extended their thanks to Clell Peterson and committee members for their work on the revisions.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for

1992: Lee McNeely, President; Fred Busroe, Vice-president; Dona Coates, Corresponding Secretary-treasurer; C. Michael Stinson, Recording Secretary; and, Herbert Clay and Arthur Ricketts, Councillors. Bert Powell moved to accept the slate as presented. The membership approved the slate of officers for 1992.

The special business meeting concluded at 5:15 p.m.

Following a buffet dinner in the lodge dining room the group assembled in the Ray Harm Room for the Saturday evening program. Virginia Kingsolver introduced Dr. Fred Alsop, chairman of the Biology Department, East Tennessee State University. Dr. Alsop, an outstanding naturalist and wildlife photographer, presented the evening program, Trekking With a Wildlife Photographer. The program and his slides were excellent.

During the short business meeting after the program Virginia Kingsolver extended her appreciation to everyone for their cooperation during her tenure as president. The membership responded by thanking her for her efforts as president.

Lee McNeely compiled the bird list which totaled 93 species.

Sunday morning the weather was again cool and clear with some fog in the valleys. One group birded the golf course and others birded in the lodge area.

A total of 54 registered for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred M. Busroe
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING AT PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

BEREA: Art and Tina Ricketts

BEVERLY: Sam and Ester Lawson

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine and Priscilla Ferrell

BUCKHORN: Eileen Sandlin

BURLINGTON: Joe and Kathy Caminiti, Lee and Lynda McNeely, Tom and Karen Stephens

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

COX'S CREEK: Dona Coates

DANVILLE: Neil and Ginny Eklund

FALLS OF ROUGH: Joyce Porter, Dora Lee St. Clair

GEORGETOWN: Mary Strong

HAZARD: Dr. Dennis Sandlin

LEXINGTON: Lula Kurkland, Ann Reith, Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mike and Tanya Stinson, Don Summerfield

MACEO: Bert and Millie Powell

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Clell T. Peterson

OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, MariLee and Wendell Thompson

RICHMOND: Paul Watt, Mrs. J. W. Murphy, Delores Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whitt, Jr.

STANLEY: Tom and Anna Stevenson

UTICA: Tony and Brenda Eaden

EVANSVILLE, IND: John Humphrey

DYERSVILLE, TENN: Ken and Betty Leggett

ESSEX, ENGLAND: Frank Bender

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1991

Birds observed on Saturday field trips at Pine Mountain State Resort Park and at the Cumberland Gap included: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, American Coot, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 93 species. Additional species observed on Sunday field trips were Barred Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Philadelphia Vireo and Northern Parula bringing the weekend total to 99 species.

FIELD NOTES

SUMMERING ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS IN BOONE COUNTY

On May 11, 1991, while participating in a local birdathon, we observed a male and female Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Phoebastria ludoviciana*) engaging in nesting behavior. The female was seen, accompanied by the male, carrying nest material toward a grove of trees along Middle Creek in Boone County, approximately six miles west of Burlington. Returning to the site two hours later, we again observed the pair. On this occasion, the female flew to the ground in a clearing, broke off a weed stem, then discarded it. With the male perched above the clearing, the female gathered another stem, this time flying with it into the same grove of trees as earlier.

Despite numerous repeated visits to the area, the nest was never located and no further nesting activity was noted. The female was last seen in late May, while the male remained at least through June 23, regularly singing on most occasions. The habitat could best be described as bottom-land riparian, with box elder being the dominant species of tree.

In addition to the above sightings, a second singing male bird was observed on June 1, 1991 in an upland forest approximately ½ mile from the first site. Unfortunately, no follow-up visit was made to this area and it was not known if this bird represented a late migrant or summering bird.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are known to breed in Kentucky only on Big Black Mountain and a single record from Maceo in Daviess County. In addition there is a small number of summer sightings from across the state. However, there are several confirmed nestings for the Cincinnati, Ohio area, some less than 10 miles from the above-mentioned sites.

Hopefully this will represent a legitimate range expansion of this attractive bird into the northern part of Kentucky. — LEE K. MCNEELY, 2932 Gallatin St., Burlington, 41005, JOE AND KATHY CAMINITI, 4980 Middle Creek Rd., Burlington, 41005, TOMMY STEPHENS, 1884 Hidden Springs Dr., Burlington, 41005.

NESTING OF PIED-BILLED GREBE AT CHANEY LAKE

Although formerly regarded as a "fairly common summer resident" (Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, p. 155), the Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) is now regarded as Endangered as a nesting bird in Kentucky (Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, *Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Plant and Animal Species of Kentucky*, 1991). Loss of suitable wetland breeding habitat, perhaps in combination with the accumulation of pesticide residues during the 1950s and '60s, has resulted in a widespread decline in the nesting population. The first confirmed nesting of Pied-billed Grebes in more than a decade was documented at Chaney Lake in Warren County in 1991. Details of this observation follow.

The late winter and early spring of 1991 were wet enough to cause the transient lakes in southern Warren County to rise to fairly high levels. Subsequent spring rainfall was abundant enough to keep standing water at Chaney Lake through much of July. The first evidence of nesting was observed on 28 April, when I watched an adult Pied-billed Grebe carry nesting material into an inundated patch of weeds in the middle of the lake. While walking the perimeter of the lake a few days later, I located an abandoned, empty nest in shallow water along the northern shore. With firm evidence of attempted nesting in hand, I returned to Chaney Lake on 15

May with the intention of searching for the presence of active nests and/or young. Two nests were located as I waded through vegetation inundated by the water. The first contained one egg laying off to the side and apparently had been abandoned; the second contained five fresh eggs that were covered with a loose layer of dead plant material. At the time of observation, the two nests with eggs were in one to two feet of water. Because I was afraid that my actions might cause abandonment of nests, all suitable nesting habitat was not searched. All three nests located were composed of floating masses of dead plant material and algae attached loosely to the stalks of emergent dead weed stems still standing from the previous year.

Subsequent visits to Chaney Lake yielded observations of at least one juvenile bird. On 26 May, Richard Cassell and I observed a half-grown, stripe-headed bird being fed by two adults in the middle of the lake; a third adult was in their company. The juvenile bird dove beneath the water several times, but it continually begged from the adults and was fed at least twice. On 11 June, Richard Healy and I again observed this family group. Based on the size of the bird, it was certainly not from the active nest observed in mid-May. Although the lake level dropped steadily during the rest of the month, water apparently remained in Chaney Lake through the first half of July. Unfortunately, I was unable to make another trip to determine if the young bird was able to attain flight before the water finally dried up sometime in mid-July.

These observations represent the first confirmed report of nesting of Pied-billed Grebes in Kentucky in many years. However, they suggest that speculation that a juvenile bird observed on McElroy Lake in early July 1989 originated from another breeding area was incorrect (Palmer-Ball and Roggs, *K.W.* 67:38, 1991). Nesting habitat similar to that used at Chaney in 1991 was present in at least two places on McElroy Lake in 1989, and the juvenile bird observed on 4 July 1989 was likely raised at McElroy Lake. Most historical reports of nesting grebes at the transient lakes (e.g. Mengel, p. 155; Wilson *K.W.* 16:15, 1940; Wilson *K.W.* 38:6, 1962) are not specific enough to determine which lake they were from, and all that were specifically mentioned in literature accounts pertained to McElroy Lake. Thus, this apparently constitutes the first confirmed nesting report from Chaney Lake. — BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Christmas (Midwinter) Bird Counts should be carried out between December 14, 1991 and January 2, 1992. If you were a participant last year, you should have already received material related to your count. Those individuals who would like to initiate a Midwinter Bird Count should contact the editor for report forms. Thank you.

At the Fall Meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the Christmas Bird Count, specifically with respect to the participation fees charged by *American Birds* for publication of the counts in that national journal. The Board had previously received a request that the K.O.S. support the position that compilers submit counts only to *The Kentucky Warbler*, where there is no charge for publication.

The Christmas Bird Counts were begun by the National Audubon Society in 1900 and have continued to the present, a database of almost a

century of winter bird records. With the mandate of National Audubon Society that *American Birds* must be a self-sufficient publication, a national committee of both professional ornithologists and amateur birders was convened in New York in 1985 to discuss ways of continuing the Christmas count issue, which had grown by that time to where the number of counts exceeded a thousand, the number of participants was in five figures and its publication costs nearly exceeded that of the other four regular quarterly issues. Ways of cutting publication costs were considered (e.g., omitting participant lists, using a tabular form, using a cheap form of reproduction), but none eliminated the need for an additional source of funding; the tabular form of publication was tried unsuccessfully in 1986. The only two methods insuring continuance of the counts were either to double the regular subscription rate to *American Birds* or to continue the participation fee at a level that would offset the additional costs of this issue. The latter alternative was unanimously recommended by the committee. Even though the current participation fees do not cover the costs of publication of this issue, they are sufficient to offset the need to raise the subscription rate to *American Birds*.

The national Christmas Bird Count has become the largest database for bird population changes in this country. Despite problems with quality control of the records, which have been improved in recent years through more stringent editorial policy, this database is of extreme importance to knowledge for bird conservation. It is especially important that established counts continue to be published in *American Birds* to maintain this database.

Therefore, the Board of Directors of the K.O.S. strongly recommends that compilers of Kentucky counts that have been published in *American Birds* continue to support the counts, collect the participation fees and submit the counts to both *American Birds* and *The Kentucky Warbler*.

KENTUCKY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS UPDATE

The seventh and final season for the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas has been completed. Field work by Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission staff and seasonal employees with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Nongame Wildlife Program supplemented volunteer effort by members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society to finish off the job. As a result, we can proudly say that all 727 priority blocks in the state have had some coverage! Sincere thanks are extended to all KOS members who have participated in the field work since it was initiated in 1985. Those who served as regional coordinators through the course of the project deserve special thanks. Nearly all data have been processed and writing on *The Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas* is underway. It is hoped that a final product can be out by late in 1992. Thanks again to all who helped make this project a success. — BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., State Coordinator, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 407 Broadway, Frankfort, 40601.



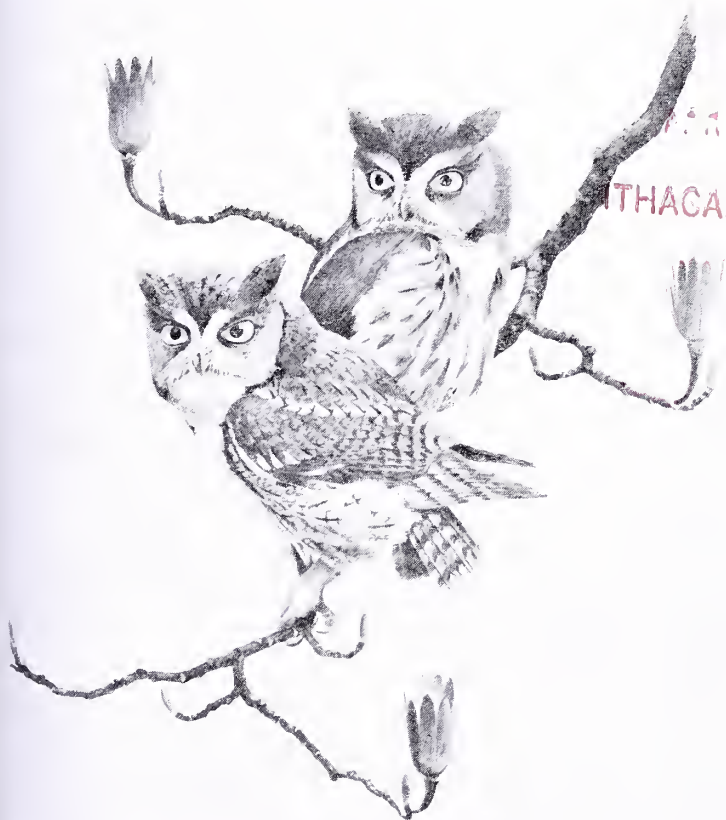
The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm, our staff artist, for this excellent painting of Eastern Screech-Owls (*Otus asio*).

THE FALL SEASON, 1991

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

The fall season for the most part was unusually warm. The temperature for August, September and October averaged above normal and the precipitation below normal. Strangely enough, on November 4 the overnight low was 20 degrees, which broke the record of 21 in 1966 for Louisville. Also, record lows were set overnight in Lexington, which dropped to 28 degrees. In contrast, Louisville set a record high on November 30 with 70 degrees and a low of 53 degrees, and in western Kentucky temperatures were in the 70s. Mild cold fronts passed through on September 18-20, October 5-8, 19-20, and major cold fronts on November 25 and particularly on 7-10 and 23-25.

Ducks and geese were slow in coming south with the majority arriving in November. There was some early movement of some land birds, but hawks were pretty much on schedule. The season as a whole was rather interesting with a number of unusual records such as Red-necked Grebe, *Plegadis* ibis, Mute and Tundra Swans, Surf Scoter, Merlin, and Snowy and Northern Saw-whet Owls.

Observers are cautioned again that records of out-of-season birds and all rarities must be accompanied with good details or documentation for acceptance.

Abbreviations: BH = Bailey Hollow, Calloway County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club, Louisville; BWMA = Ballard Wildlife Management Area, Ballard County; BNP = Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; CG = Cumberland Gap, Bell County; Dan = Danville, Boyle County; DD = Dix Dam, Mercer County; JC = Jonathan Creek, Marshall County; KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; LBL = Land between the Lakes; L#9 = Lake #9, Fulton County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; PM = Pine Mountain State Park, Bell County; SH = Science Hill, Pulaski County; SCL = Sportsman Club Lake, Larue County; TP = Thurston's Pond, Wayne County; UL = University of Louisville campus, Louisville, Jefferson County.

Loons through Cormorants — One to five Common Loons were seen at ten locations from October 6 through November 23 (m.ob.), with the greatest numbers of 83 at MCFH on November 8 (FB) and 54 at Dale Hollow Lake, Clinton and Cumberland counties, November 14 (RH). Pied-billed Grebes were reported in low numbers with the earliest on August 14 at SCL (KC), and the highest number 17 at Kentucky Lake, Calloway County, on October 16 (CP). One to two Horned Grebes were noted in central and western Kentucky from October 25 to November 15 (BA, JTE, JEL, CMS), and 24 were seen on a Lexington reservoir, Fayette County, on November 17 (AR, TR). A *Red-necked Grebe*, a rare transient here, was found at DD on November 9 (FL, WK). Double-crested Cormorants were widespread and migration was fairly good; the earliest was noted at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM) and three were at the Falls of the Ohio on August 17 (JB, PB). There were large numbers reported at several locations: 127 at LBL on September 28 (JB, PB), 34 on Shippingport Island, Jefferson County, October 11 (LR), 400+ flying over I-264 and Breckenridge Lane, Lou, on October 20 (JEL); and 130 upstream from Silo Overlook,

LBL, on November 17 (CP). Singles were seen during the period at two locations in Pulaski County (JEL), Green River Lake, Taylor County (JEL), and at Lake Pewee (JH). Two to four birds were also seen at Towhead Island, Lou (JB, PB), Wysox Lake, Ohio County (KC), and MCFH and CRL (FB). Four were still present above McAlpine Dam (BM, MM, CMS, JB, PB) and 28 on rocks below the hydro plant at Lou (LR) on November 18 and 23, respectively, and four were seen at MCFH on November 23 (FB).

Hérons through Swans — Although Great Blue Herons were reported from ten locations, numbers were not large with 60 the highest count at BH and Patterson Landing, Calloway County, on October 16 (CP) and 50 at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM). Numbers increased "noticeably" in recent months in the Dan area (FL) but seemed normal at MCFH (FB). The largest concentration of Great Egrets was at L#9 with 75+ birds (BM, MM). It was of interest to find two Great Egrets at TP as late as November 20-23 (JEL, SKic). Fifteen or more Snowy Egrets were also noted at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM), and with one observed below McAlpine Dam (LR) were the only ones reported. Three Little Blue Herons (two adults, one immature) were seen below McAlpine Dam August 2 (LR); an estimated 25+ (approximately equal numbers of adults and immatures) were found at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM); and six were at BWMA on September 13 (CP). Cattle Egrets were observed at several locations: 29 on August 3 flying over the Water Treatment Pond on the south edge of Hickman, Fulton County, near dusk, perhaps to roost at Reelfoot (BM, MM); 42 were noted at the Falls of the Ohio on August 18 (DN); 30 on the Murray University campus, Calloway County, and 20 on the edge of Murray on November 19 (JTE, Bob Head, *fide* CP). Green-backed Herons continue to be scarce; the highest count reported was 10 individuals at SCL (KC); the species was last observed October 15 at BPS (KC). Single Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported at MCFH on August 8 and 11, September 13 and 20 (FB). A single *Glossy/White-faced ibis* was observed and photographed at MCFH, October 23 to November 1 (M. Hearn, FB, LK, BM, MM, CMS, S, FS); the record is currently under review by the KBRC. A *Tundra Swan* was found at Owsley Fork Lake in Jackson and Madison Counties on November 9 (AR, TR), and was also observed on November 10 by (M. Flynn, *fide* AR) and on November 13 (CMS). Also a Mute Swan was found on a farm pond near Verona, Boone County, on November 23 (LMc, KCa).

Geese and Ducks — A total of 3500 Snow Geese congregated at BWMA on November 4 (CW) and 4000 were there by November 30 (CW); two (one white phase, one dark phase) were at MCFH, November 7-27 (FB). No others were reported. Canada Geese were slow in coming down from the north: 44 arrived at BWMA on September 19 (CW), numbers increased to 2500 by November 1, and 4000 were there by the end of November (CW). In Lou the southward migration was first noted when 20 were seen in southwestern Jefferson County on September 29 (VJ, WJ).

The duck migration was late this year, and the majority arrived after a strong cold front moved through November 7-13. Wood Ducks were widespread and reported from ten locations with a concentration of 125+ at a Bellevue, Boone County, gravel pit on November 9 with smaller numbers remaining through the end of November (LMc); the highest number reported was 150 at LBL on November 22 (CP). Green-winged Teal were regular at LBL in September and October, with a maximum of 16 birds on October 22 (CP); two were at MCFH, November 9 (FB); 50 was the high count at Lake Pewee, November

22 (JH); and 30+ were at TP on November 20 (JEL). Sixteen Am. Black Ducks were noted at BH on October 16 (CP). One hundred Mallards had gathered at BWMA by September 30, but the flock built up by November 8 to a count of several thousand (CW); the entire duck population at BWMA on November 30 was 5000-6000, the majority Mallard with scattered groups of Gadwall and mergansers (CW). Twenty Blue-winged Teal had returned to a small pond at Somerset, Pulaski County, on September 4 (JEL); nine were seen at JC on September 16 and six on September 30 (CP). Twelve N. Shovelers were noted at BH on October 26 and 30+ on November 22, with 16 also at JC on November 11 (CP) and one at MCFH on November 27 (FB); elsewhere, the species was reported from only three counties with numbers low (two to nine birds). Gadwall were present from October 16 to November 23 at ten locations with 300 at JC as the earliest (CP), 200 at BH October 22 (CP), 60 at CRL November 8 and 20-25 on November 9 (FB); 43 to 49 in Mercer County (FL, WK), 24 at Mayfair basins, Jefferson County (FM), and 20 at TP (JEL), smaller numbers were elsewhere. American Wigeons were reported from only five locations, with 60 at BH on November 22 (CP) as the high count and 30 at Lake Pewee (JH) and 16 at the Mayfair basins, Jefferson County (CMS), as the next highest counts. Canvasbacks were scarce (one to eight) and were first sighted on November 8 at McAlpine Dam, Lou (CMS); four were at Lake Pewee, November 13 (JH), five at CRL and 2 at MCFH on November 15 (FB); and one female on a quarry pond east of Lou, November 23-24 (BM, CMS). On November 17 there were 12 species of Anatidae at DD including 150 Redheads, six Ring-necked Ducks, three Greater Scaup, 12 Red-breasted Mergansers, and single female Bufflehead and Lesser Scaup, but the next day all were gone (WK, *fide* FL); there was also a large mixed raft of 400-500 ducks, mostly Redheads and scaup, at CRL on November 8, the largest duck concentration ever recorded there (FB). The number of Redheads was the largest flock ever found there. Single Redheads were also found in western Kentucky at BH on November 22 and at L#9 on November 23 (CP). Ring-necked Ducks were widespread and fairly good flights were noted: they peaked at 295 at Lake Pewee on November 29 (JH), 200+ were on a quarry pond northeast of Middletown, Jefferson County, on November 18 (BM) and again the following day (BM, CMS); 50 were at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, on November 8 (JEL); 100 were at Owsley Fork Lake on November 9-12 (AR, TR) and smaller numbers elsewhere. The only Greater Scaup reported were the three mentioned above at DD. Fifty plus Lesser Scaup at Fishing Creek Recreational Area on November 8 was the largest number reported (JEL); 25 birds were on Owsley Fork Lake, November 9 (AR, TR) and 16 were noted at L#9 on November 23 (CP). A single Oldsquaw was seen on Reservoir #4, Lexington, Fayette County, with a raft of 500+ waterfowl including Red-breasted Mergansers, Redheads, Hooded Mergansers, *et. al.*, November 17 (AR, m.ob.). A Surf Scoter was present on Freeman Lake, Hardin County, on November 17 (LC). What happened to the Common Goldeneye? Only two reports were received, of single birds: one in Boone County and one in Fulton County (LMc, CP, respectively). Six Bufflehead were noted on the Ohio River off Towhead Island, Jefferson County, on November 4 (CMS); three to seven were at Lake Pewee November 6-22 (JH); 24 were on a Lexington reservoir, November 17 (AR, TR), one at DD on the same date (WK *fide* FL); 12 at L#9 November 23 (CP); and numbers "appear to be normal" at CRL (FB). Interesting was the flock of 125+ Hooded Mergansers at TP on November 20 (JEL); also, 59 were noted at City Lake, Taylor County, on November 10 (LC), 14 at a pond in Prospect, Jefferson County, November 14 (FM); 13 at Lake

Pewee on November 6 (JH); 20-25 at MCFH and CRL commonly during the period (FB); on a Lexington reservoir (no numbers) on October 25 (BA); and a large concentration of 250 at LBL on November 6 (CP). The following Red-breasted Mergansers were reported: one to two on a small pond in Prospect, Jefferson County, on November 9 and 18 (FM), 12 at DD on November 17 (WK *fide* FL), two at Freeman Lake on November 17 (LC), and six above McAlpine Dam, November 18 (JB, PB, BM, MM, CMS). Six Ruddy Ducks had returned to BH by October 16 (CP); one to two at MCFH between October 24 and November 8 (FB); two were at Camp Ernst November 2 (LMc), 20 at LBL November 6 (CP); four at Owsley Fork Lake, November 9 (AR, TR); two to seven at Lake Pewee, November 13-29 (JH); one at Towhead Island, Jefferson County, November 18 (JB, PB, BM, MM, CMS); and 50 at L#9, November 23 (CP).

Hawks through Cranes — Black Vultures were recorded in numbers at MCFH, with 35 on October 6, 45 on October 11, 37 on October 12 and 60 on October 18 (FB); a flock of 10 was also reported near Leitchfield, Grayson County (KC). The largest number of Turkey Vultures reported was 80 at MCFH on October 6 (FB); a flock of 44 migrating birds was noted along Rt. 21 in southern Madison County on November 13 (CMS); and at least 20 were seen with the Black Vultures mentioned above in Grayson County on November 27. An Osprey was first noted at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County, on August 8 (DN); two were there on August 17 (JB, PB); and singles were noted in BWMA and Marshall County (CP), Ohio County (BE, TE), and Madison and Henderson counties (AR, LR). Seven Mississippi Kites were observed at BWMA (six adults, one immature) on August 4 (BM, MM). Fair numbers of wintering Bald Eagles appeared in western Kentucky in early November, with up to 25 birds present during the period (CP, CW); an adult was present at L#9 August 3 (BM, MM); one immature was seen at MCFH on September 13 (FB); and an injured bird was found in Crittenden, Grant County (KCa). A single Northern Harrier was observed on the Peabody Homestead Mine, Ohio County, on August 28 (KC, LR), but 25 were there on November 29 (KC, HLC); one near Chaney Lake, Warren County (DCh), one in Calloway County on September 27 (CP), one at MCFH on October 26 (BA), one near Prospect, Jefferson County, on November 18 (FM), a few in the Dan area (Boyle and Mercer Counties — FL), and one in Taylor County (JEI) were the only others reported. Sharp-shinned Hawks were found at seven locations: Beargrass Nature Preserve, Lou (JB, PB); Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County (JB, PB); LBL (JB, PB); Lincoln County (JEI); southwest Lou (WJ, VJ); MCFH (BA) and Westport, Oldham County (BM, BBC). All reports were of single birds except for two at MCFH on October 25 and three near Westport on October 6. Cooper's Hawks were observed singly from five locations, and four birds were noted on the Westport trip on October 6 (BM, BBC). Single Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at LBL on September 28 (JB, PB) and at CG on October 25 (BA). Three flocks of Broad-winged Hawks totaling about 500 birds were noted five miles north of Hazard, Perry County, on October 17 (DSp). Fair numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were present with 11 birds in Boyle County on November 25 going to roost in conifers (FL, WK); the first observation was made in Clark County with two birds on October 25 (BA); other sightings included four in Ohio County (KC), three in southwestern Jefferson County (DS), one in Boone County (LMc), and one in Hart County (SK). Am. Kestrels appeared to be more numerous this fall in western Kentucky (CP). The rare *Merlin* was seen at Westport, Oldham County, on October 6 (BM, BBC). A Peregrine Falcon was seen on three dates at the

Falls of the Ohio: August 17 (JB, PB), October 29 (CMS), and November 16 (CMS).

Approximately 40 Wild Turkeys were seen one mile south of Beaver Dam, Ohio County, August 25 (BE, TE). American Coots were in good numbers and began appearing in small numbers at Lake Pewee, Hopkins County, October 12 (JH), but by November 6 an estimated 1300+ were there (JH), and 800 were noted at Dale Hollow Lake in Clinton and Cumberland counties, November 14 (RH). The flight of Sandhill Cranes was widespread, but numbers were low with the exception of some 3000 that passed over the Crescent Hill Reservoir, Lou, on November 27 in a 40-minute period (HS), and a flock of about 200 and another heard (but not seen) of perhaps similar size in eastern Lou on November 5 (DN). Two cranes were noticed flying over BPS, Grayson County, on October 17 and 19 (KC, HLC), three at BWMA, Ballard County, November 4 (CW), four over the UL campus, November 6 (BM, CMS), 49 near Burlington, Boone County, November 11 (LMc), six over northern Madison County, November 13 (CMS), 23 at DD November 17 (MM), and 42 in Mercer County the same date (WK *fide* FL). Other records in late November included the following: five at Falls of the Rough, Grayson County (KC); 14 over SH (JEI); eight near Cooley Lake, Wayne County (JEI); 35 over Somerset, Pulaski County (JEI); and small numbers over Munfordville, Hart County (SK).

Shorebirds through Terns — Although 16 species of shorebirds were encountered in the state, numbers were very small. Two Black-bellied Plovers were at JC on October 19 (CP), and one was seen at MCFH on November 7 and 8 (FB). There was but a single observation of Lesser Golden-Plover, one bird below McAlpine Dam, Lou, November 18 (LR). Semipalmated Plovers were reported from three locations: five at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM), one at BWMA on August 4 (BM, MM), and two at MCFH on August 20 and one on October 12 (FB). Greater Yellowlegs were present in nine counties: Boone, Fulton, Jefferson, Larue, Marshall, Pulaski, Rowan, Trigg and Wayne, but only in numbers from one to twelve; the earliest bird was at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM), the latest November 23 at L#9 (CP) and at a pond at Somerset, Pulaski County (JEI). Up to three Lesser Yellowlegs were present at MCFH August 6 through 17, and up to six at LBL and JC September 16 to November 6 (CP). One Solitary Sandpiper was noted at MCFH on August 6 and 8, and three on August 17 (FB); one was seen at L#9 and two at Hickman, Fulton County, August 3 (BM, MM); and one was at the Falls of the Ohio, Lou, August 18 (DN). One to three Spotted Sandpipers were noted August 3 to October 30 at five locations (BM, MM, JH, KC, JEI). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at MCFH on August 11 and 17, and 21 on August 20 (FB); 25+ were at L#9 on August 3 and three at BWMA on August 4 (BM, MM); three were at McDougal Lake, Larue County, on August 14 (KC); and five were at JC on October 21 and eight on October 23 (CP). A few Western Sandpipers showed up between August 3 and November 6: two at L#9 (BM, MM); up to five at BWMA (BM, MM, CP); three at LBL (CP); two at the Ghent Power Plant, Carroll County (LMc, m. ob.); and three at MCFH on August 11 and nine on August 20 (FB). Least Sandpipers were at MCFH from August 6 through October 27, with a maximum of 18 on August 20 (FB, BA, BM); one at L#9 on August 3 and two at BWMA on August 4 (BM, MM); and nine at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, November 22 (JEI). One White-rumped Sandpiper appeared at MCFH on August 11 (FB). Two Baird's Sandpipers were noted at the Falls of the Ohio on August 11 and at least six on August 24 (BBC); two were present at MCFH on August 20 (FB).

There seemed to be more Pectoral Sandpipers than any other shorebird: 100+ at L#9 on August 3 and four at BWMA on August 4 (BM, MM); eight at SCL on August 14 (KC); a maximum of 75 at MCFH on August 20 (FB), with smaller numbers throughout the period (FB, BA, CMS, BM, MM, S, FS); eight at the Falls of the Ohio, September 7 (BBC), and one there as late as November 8 (CMS); a maximum of 24 at JC with many other observations between September 16 and November 23 (CP); one to ten at a small pond at Somerset from October 16 to November 18, with one bird still present at Pulaski County Park, November 22 (JEL, SK); three at Lake Linville, Rockcastle County, October 25 (AR, TR); and four at Lake Pewee, November 13 (JH). Fair numbers of Dunlin were present but most of them appeared after mid-October: a maximum of 20 at MCFH on November 8, with occurrence of smaller numbers between October 18 and November 24 (FB, MM), three arrived at SCL on October 20 (JEL); 30 were present at JC on October 23 with other reports there during the period; one to four at Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County, November 1-9 (LMc); 28 at Pulaski County Park, November 14 (JEL); four in Boyle County on November 18 with two still at the same pond on November 21 (FL); 25 at TP on November 20-23 (JEL, SKic); 13 still present at Pulaski County Park on November 22 (JEL); and 50 noted at L#9 on November 23 (CP). One Stilt Sandpiper was noted at JC on September 16 and 30, and four were there on the rather late date of November 6 (CP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were only reported from the Falls of the Ohio: one below McAlpine Dam, September 5 (LR) and two in the same area on September 7 (BBC). Up to nine dowitchers (sp.?) were reported at JC from September 16 to October 23; two were at MCFH on October 26 (BA) and 31 (S, FS). The high count of Common Snipe was at TP with 62+ birds on November 20 (JEL, SKic); a maximum of 15 at MCFH on November 15 (FB), with occurrence from August 8 through November 27 (FB, BA); up to nine birds were reported on several observations at JC between October 21 and November 11 (CP); and several others were reported in Hopkins, Boyle and Pulaski counties (JH, MM and JEL, respectively).

Bonaparte's Gulls were numerous in the Lou area after a strong cold front moved through in early November, with 70+ present below the hydroelectric plant at the McAlpine Locks and Dam on November 10, 50+ above McAlpine Dam on November 18 (BM, MM, CMS, JB, PB), 100+ at the Falls of the Ohio, November 28 (BM, MM), and smaller numbers upstream at Towhead Island and at Indian Hills, Lou; 19 had returned to DD November 2 (MM, FL, WK), and 20 were there November 23 (FL); 21 were seen at the mouth of JC on November 21, and 40+ at BH on November 22 (CP); numbers were higher than usual at MCFH from November 7 through 27, with a maximum of 78 on the latter date (FB); and others were noted at Freeman Lake (LC). Ring-billed Gulls were widespread, but not numerous; the earliest report for LBL was September 16 (CP). Four Herring Gulls were seen at LBL, Marshall County, on November 6 (CP). A *Black-legged Kittiwake*, a rarity here, was present below the hydroelectric plant at the McAlpine Locks and Dam on November 28 and fed with the many Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls (JEL, BM, MM).

There were few comments about the terns, although four species were reported. Only one to six Caspian Terns were reported from the Falls of the Ohio August 9-24 (LR, BBC). One Common Tern was seen at the Falls on August 9 (LR), and two were reported at MCFH on September 18 (FB). Two Forster's Terns were noted at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, on September 19 (JEL); from 6-9 birds at JC, October 19-21 (CP); and four at

BH on the rather late date of November 22 (CP). Fifteen plus Least Terns were observed at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM) and 30+ were found at the Water Treatment Pond on the south edge of Hickman, Fulton County, also August 3 (BM, MM). Two Black Terns were seen at the Falls of the Ohio on August 18 (DN).

Owls through Woodpeckers — A Barn Owl was found in Boyle County, November 25 (FL). Three Great Horned Owls were heard calling at Morehead, Rowan County, on November 26 (FB); others were heard at BPS (KC) and in the Dan area (FL). A *Snowy Owl* reached Trimble County and was noted on November 18-21; the bird was in a weakened condition and was captured by members of a raptor rehabilitation staff, but later died. One *Long-eared Owl* returned to Ohio County and was seen on November 30 (KC, AW, MW). A N. Saw-whet Owl was on a cliff ledge overlooking Grayson Lake where Highway 7 crosses the Little Sandy River, Elliott County, on October 2 (LK).

Common Nighthawks were noted on August 21 and 29 with 50 observed over St. Matthews, a suburb of Lou (JB, PB), and 62 in southwestern Jefferson County on the latter date (DS); several hundred were seen over Westport Road, Jefferson County, on September 5 (DN); small numbers were observed throughout September; one bird was last seen on October 25 in downtown Lou (Barry Nichols, *file* CMS). Ten Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were still at BPS feeders on September 18 and the last one left on October 17 (KC); this is a rather late date, but the species identification is definite. Three Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen migrating through CG on September 28 (CMS) and six at LBL on the same date (JB, PB). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers continue to be scarce; occasionally one or two are seen. The first observation was at MCNP, Edmonson County, on September 21 with one bird noted (JB, PB); two were at BNP on October 4 (JB, PB); and two were at BPS in November (KC).

Flycatchers through Wrens — Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in east Lou, Jefferson County, on September 6 (DN) and along a "wagon road" near a cornfield along the Mississippi River below BWMA on September 12 (LR). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was noted in Dan on September 12 (FL). Rather late Eastern Kingbirds were reported on September 27, one along Heaton-Ford Road, SH (JEL) and two on the PM golf course, Bell County, with one lingering at the latter location on September 29 (LMc). On August 3 "hundreds" of Purple Martins were "streaming in to roost" near L#9 well before sunset (BM, MM). Migration of the Tree Swallow was noted on August 3 when 300 birds were seen at L#9 (BM, MM); 50-75 were seen at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County, October 7 (JB, PB); one was noted in Boone County on November 2 (LMc); and five birds were seen in Pulaski County on November 3 (JEL). Fifty plus Northern Rough-winged Swallows were observed at BWMA on August 4, and 200 Bank Swallows were noted at L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM). Red-breasted Nuthatches had returned by September 22 at Bernheim Forest (JB, PB); one was reported from CG on October 25 (BA). Brown Creepers were late in returning and were first reported at BNP on October 3 (JB, PB). A few Bewick's Wrens were reported: one at the U.S. Army ordinance depot, Madison County (WD), and two all during the period at a Leitchfield residence, Grayson County (KC). A few Winter Wrens were on schedule and noted from September 23 to November 6 (BA, JB, PB, FL, BM, CMS). Two Sedge Wrens were heard singing at BWMA on August 4 (BM, MM); no others were reported.

Kinglets through Shrikes — Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared to be late in returning as the first observation was at BNP on October 3 (JB, PB). A Veery

at BNP on September 8 was rather early (JB, PB). The thrush migration appeared to be poor and arrival rather late. There was some evidence of the migration of American Robins on October 20 when "several thousand" were seen flying over Crescent Hill Reservoir, Lou (JEL). Eleven was the high count of Am. Pipits found in Pulaski County, October 26 (JEL); one was at MCFH on October 29 (BM) and November 8 (FB); and four were at TP on November 20 (JEL, SKic). There was some movement of Cedar Waxwings in September with 100+ at Mammoth Cave National Park on September 21 (JB, PB), 30+ at BPS, September 17 (KC); 23 in a yard in southwestern Jefferson County, October 15 (DS); and good numbers in Hart County (SK). There were few comments on the Loggerhead Shrike, but it was encouraging that one to three birds are seen "every time out" in the Dan area (FL).

Vireos through Dickcissels — The earliest reported Philadelphia Vireo was September 12 in Dan (FL); one to three were noted at BNP, MCNP, Bernheim Forest, and LBL between September 14 and October 4 (JB, PB). The warbler migration was not spectacular; 27 species were reported, but numbers were low. A Golden-winged Warbler showed up on August 18 at BNP (JB, PB), and another was at Munfordville on September 14 (SK). A Tennessee Warbler was fairly early on August 18 at Lou (JB, PB); three were fairly late on the UL campus, November 5 and 6 (BM, CMS). Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from three locations; two were rather late on November 5 and 6 on the UL campus (BM, CMS). The Nashville Warbler, uncommon in fall, was seen as late as November 5 and 6 on the UL campus (BM, CMS). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed at PM on September 28 (CMS). Approximately three flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers totaling 175 birds were noted at MCFH on September 13, with regular occurrence subsequent to that date. Black-throated Green Warblers were fairly widespread and were present from September 2 to October 16 (JB and KC, respectively). Pine Warblers were heard from August until October 13 in the Madisonville area (JH). A Palm Warbler was seen as late as November 29 in Green County (LC). Bay-breasted Warblers were reported from seven locations, the latest October 26 in the Dan area (FL). A Blackpoll Warbler, rare here in the fall, was "minutely studied" at Dan on October 1 (FL). Several Am. Redstarts were reported at PM September 27-29 (CMS), and one was at Lou on October 4 (JB, PB) and October 8 (CMS). A few Ovenbirds lingered fairly late; one was observed on October 14 in Valley Station, southwestern Jefferson County (DS), and two lingered in eastern Jefferson County until October 27 (AM). A Northern Waterthrush was seen at LBL on September 2 (DC). Two Kentucky Warblers were seen at Lou on September 19 (MB). Ten plus Blue Grosbeaks, three males still singing, were observed in Logan and Todd counties on August 3 (BM, MM). Several Dickcissels were still heard singing near L#9 on August 3 (BM, MM).

Sparrows through Siskins — The sparrow migration appeared to be later than normal. Winter sparrows have been low in numbers, especially the White-crowned. A LeConte's Sparrow was noted in a field beside Owsley Fork Lake, Madison/Jackson counties, on November 13 (CMS). There was some movement of Chipping Sparrows noted at SH when 20 birds were recorded on October 23 (JEL); single birds were seen at Levy Jackson State Park, Laurel County, on October 25 (BA) and as late as November 2 at Centre College campus, Dan (MM). Approximately 23 Vesper Sparrows were present at MCFH on November 1 (FB). Dark-eyed Juncos were late in arriving too, with the earliest reported at BPS on October 16 with 11 birds (KC), then at MCFH on October 18 (FB), Valley Station on October 21 (DS), Hopkins County on

October 22 (JH), and in Lou November 4 (S); numbers have been low. White-throated Sparrows were first noted on October 10 at Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County (AR, TR). A migrating flock (150 birds) of Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen in Seneca Park, Lou, on September 23 (JB, PB). Purple Finches have been very scarce; earliest reports were on October 20 at Hopkins County (B. West, *fide* JH) and October 26 at MCFH (BA). House Finches are numerous everywhere and 70+ were observed at feeders in SH on November 30 (JEl). Small Numbers of Pine Siskins appeared with the earliest observations at Burlington, Boone County, on November 2 (LMc), increasing to 18 there by November 18 (KCa). Other sightings with two to five birds were at Lou (S, FS), Mt. Washington (DC), Berea, Madison County (AR, TR), and Science Hill (Diane Elmore *fide* JEl).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Mary Bauer (MB), Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Fred Busroe (FB), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Joe Caminiti (JCa), David Chaffin (DCh), H. L. Clay (HLC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Dona Coates (DC), Lloyd Curry (LC), Wayne Davis (WD), Brenda Eaden (BE), Tony Eaden (TE), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), James W. Hancock (JH), R. Hines (RH), Violet Jackson (VJ), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Judi Jones (JJ), William Kemper (WK), Steve Kickert (SKic), Steve Kistler (SK), Lewis Kornman (LK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Alice Marion (AM), Fred Mansmith (FM), Coleen Mansmith (CM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Donald Parker (DP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art Ricketts (AR), Tina Ricketts (TR), Helga Schutte (HS), Don Spencer (DSp), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Thomas Stephens (TS), C. Michael Stinson (CMS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Wilkins (CW), Alita Wilson (AW), Montelle Wilson (MW); m.ob. = many observers.

— Anne L. Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, and Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville 40292.

FIRST REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

BURT L. MONROE, JR., Secretary

The past year (1991) was the first one for the operation of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (hereafter KBRC), at present an *ad hoc* committee of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. This report is the first such annual one of the KBRC, covering actions taken through the calendar year 1991.

Authorization for formation of the committee was given by the Board of Directors of the KOS at its fall meeting in 1990. The committee's primary charge is to determine the validity of records of rare birds within Kentucky, to maintain the documentation materials for these records, and to publish annually a summary of the deliberations of the KBRC.

Initially, the KBRC consisted of five members: Blaine Ferrell, Fred Loetscher, Burt Monroe, Jr. (Secretary), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Anne Stamm. Following the third round of circulations (completion of the first twelve cases), Brainard Palmer-Ball resigned and was replaced by Mike Stinson.

In 1991, there were six rounds of circulations through the KBRC involving 17 cases (2 of these involved the same record, thus there were 16 different reports for deliberation by the committee). The three cases circulated on Round 6 (Lawrence's Warbler, *Plegadis* ibis, and Red Phalarope) are currently in their second circulation and unresolved at this point; results of the final decisions will appear in the 1992 report. Thus, there were 13 individual records finalized in 1991, and the report of these follows.

Accepted records:

Gavia stellata. RED-THROATED LOON. [#91-1] November 25, 1990, Towhead Island, Ohio River at Louisville, Jefferson County (PB, JB, BPB, DP). [#91-7] December 15, 16 and 19, 1990, Kentucky Lake ca. 1.5 miles above Kentucky Dam along the western side of the lake, Marshall County (BPB, DP, CP, CM, JTE).

Gavia pacifica. PACIFIC LOON. [#91-6] December 15 and 19, 1990, Kentucky Lake ca. 1.5 miles above Kentucky Dam along the western side of the lake, Marshall County (BPB, DP). Although the photographs are excellent, the KBRC notes that without a specimen, absolute confirmation between Pacific Loon and Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) in this plumage is not possible; the decision was based on high probability of correct identification in addition to the more expected occurrence of Pacific. A first state record.

Cygnus columbianus. TUNDRA SWAN [#91-8] January 2-11, 1991, transient wet-weather basin adjacent to South Junior High School, Somerset, Pulaski County (JE, DE, SK, GH, BMu). [#91-13] April 13, 1991, transient lake, Bowling Green, Warren County (RH).

Anas cyanoptera. CINNAMON TEAL. [#91-12] April 6, 1991 (pair), northeast of Owensboro, north of Iceland Road less than a mile from its junction with U.S. 60 (MS, BMon).

Larus fuscus. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. [#91-10] December 8-9, 1990 (2 adults, 1 first-year), December 15-16, 1990 (1 adult, 2 first-year), vicinity of Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston counties (BPB, DP, CP, CM, JTE).

Sterna forsteri. FORSTER'S TERN. [#91-11] February 12, 1991, Kentucky Lake at Bailey Hollow, along west shore about mile 58, Calloway County (CP).

Dendroica discolor. PRAIRIE WARBLER. [#91-2] December 22, 1990, KY 1238 less than a mile north of its junction with Pack Lane northeast of Garrett, Meade County (BPB).

Seiurus aurocapillus. OVENBIRD. [#91-9] December 15, 1990, behind Rally's parking lot on Preston Highway, Louisville, Jefferson County (RH).

Geothlypis trichas. COMMON YELLOWTHROAT. [#91-3] December 22, 1990, Fort Knox Military Reservation near end of Pack Lane northeast of Garrett, Meade County (BPB).

Icterus (galbula) galbula. NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLE. [#91-4 and #91-5] January 9-21, 1991, feeder at 2634 Westmoreland Road, Lexington, Fayette County (ES, BW, SV, JW, BMor). The single individual was initially reported as a probable "Bullock's" [*I. (galbula) bullockii*], but this case was resolved after several circulations as a female or immature male Baltimore. Comparison of the photograph with a large series of specimens at the Smithsonian Institution, plus comparison with the only other winter specimen of Northern Oriole from Kentucky (an individual in the same plumage taken at a feeder in Louisville), led to the decision. The KBRC notes, however, that without a specimen, absolute confirmation between Baltimore and Bullock's in this plumage is not possible; the decision was based on high probability of correct identification in addition to the more expected occurrence of Baltimore.

Observers: Jane Bell (JB), Patricia Bell (PB), Jackie Elmore (JE), Diane Elmore (DE), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), Richard Healy (RH), Gay Hodges (GH), Steve Kickert (SK), Burt Monroe (BMon), Bob Morris (BMor), Carl Mowery (CM), Bob Murphy (BMu), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Don Parker (DP), Clell Peterson (CP), Mike Stinson (MS), Esther Sutton (ES), Sonja Vigh (SV), Jim Williams (JW), Bernice Wood (BW).

Rejected record:

Gavia adamsii. YELLOW-BILLED LOON. May 18, 1991, just above Kentucky Dam, Marshall County. In addition to this report, the bird was noted earlier in May by several observers, including two members of the KBRC. This individual was a peculiar bird, indeed, displaying the strange upturned profile of this species but nevertheless showing some characters (e.g., head shape and size, darker culmen) of a Common Loon. Without a documented specimen it would not be possible to identify this bird with certainty, thus a species of this extreme rarity this far east would require a much greater level of documentation and confirmation to be accepted as a first state record.

Below is the "Review List," which includes those species that are required to be circulated through the KBRC before acceptance as a Kentucky record. In addition, any record (past or present) that someone feels should be evaluated may be circulated through the committee; any documentation materials for such records should be sent directly to the Secretary. Re-evaluation of a record that has already received a KBRC decision requires submission of new materials and documentation that might lead to change of the earlier evaluation.

Gavia pacifica (PACIFIC LOON); *Podiceps grisegena* (RED-NECKED GREBE); *Aechmophorus occidentalis* (WESTERN GREBE); *Pterodroma hasitata* (BLACK-

CAPPED PETREL); *Morus bassanus* (NORTHERN GANNET); *Anhinga anhinga* (ANHINGA); *Egretta tricolor* (TRICOLORED HERON); *Egretta rufescens* (REDDISH EGRET); *Eudocimus albus* (WHITE IBIS); *Plegadis* sp. (WHITE-FACED/GLOSSY IBIS); *Ajaia ajaja* (ROSEATE SPOONBILL); *Mycteria americana* (WOOD STORK); *Chen rossii* (ROSS' GOOSE); *Anas cyanoptera* (CINNAMON TEAL); *Anas penelope* (EURASIAN WIGEON); *Somateria spectabilis* (KING EIDER); *Histrionicus histrionicus* (HARLEQUIN DUCK); *Oxyura dominica* (MASKED DUCK); *Buteo swainsoni* (SWAINSON'S HAWK); *Falco mexicanus* (PRAIRIE FALCON); *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (YELLOW RAIL); *Porphyryla martinica* (PURPLE GALLINULE); *Himantopus mexicanus* (BLACK-NECKED STILT); *Numenius phaeopus* (WHIMBREL); *Limosa haemastica* (HUDSONIAN GODWIT); *Limosa fedoa* (MARBLED GODWIT); *Calidris maritima* (PURPLE SANDPIPER); *Philomachus pugnax* (RUFF); *Phalaropus lobatus* (RED-NECKED PHALAROPE); *Phalaropus fulicaria* (RED PHALAROPE); *Stercorarius pomarinus* (POMARINE JAEGER); *Larus californicus* (CALIFORNIA GULL); *Larus glaucooides* (ICELAND GULL); *Larus fuscus* (LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL) [except on Kentucky Lake or Lake Barkley]; *Larus marinus* (GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL); *Rissa tridactyla* (BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE); *Xema sabini* (SABINE'S GULL); *Columba fasciata* (BAND-TAILED PIGEON); *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (GROOVE-BILLED ANI); *Selasphorus rufus* (RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD); *Sayornis saya* (SAY'S PHOEBE); *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (VERMILION FLYCATCHER); *Tyrannus verticalis* (WESTERN KINGBIRD); *Tyrannus forficata* (SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER); *Tyrannus savana* (FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER); *Salpinctes obsoletus* (ROCK WREN); *Sialia currucoides* (MOUNTAIN BLULBIRD); *Lanius excubitor* (NORTHERN SHRIKE); *Dendroica nigrescens* (BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER); *Dendroica kirtlandii* (KIRTLAND'S WARBLER); *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK); *Spizella pallida* (CLAY-COLORED SPARROW); *Ammodramus leconteii* (LE CONTE'S SPARROW); *Ammodramus caudacutus* (SHARP-TAILED SPARROW); *Zonotrichia querula* (HARRIS'S SPARROW); *Pinicola enucleator* (PINE GROSBEEK); *Carduelis psaltria* (LESSER GOLDFINCH); *Passer montanus* (EURASIAN TREE SPARROW).

In addition, all species heretofore unrecorded or deemed extirpated in Kentucky also require documentation. Records of difficult to identify rare birds (e.g., immature swans and goshawks) and unlikely out-of-season birds (e.g., winter Broad-winged Hawks, Ospreys, and most warblers), should be circulated through the KBRC as well. The current official "Kentucky List" stands at 343 species (15 of which are by sight record only), with the Pacific Loon, Tricolored Heron and Prairie Falcon added since the 340 species in Monroe et al. (1988, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, published by the K.O.S.).

One major problem confronts the committee: the failure of persons to submit records of rare Kentucky birds to the committee. The committee is aware, for example, of a 1991 report (including photographs) of the Black-shouldered Kite (potential first state record), and of photographs of higher quality than currently available for the *Plegadis ibis*, which might lead to a new resolution of this case, as well as 1991 reports of several other species on the "Review List." The KBRC is unable to evaluate these if they are not submitted. We would like to request that all such reports of first state records, or of rarities as noted in the "Review List," be submitted to the KBRC, either in the form of documentation sent to Anne Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, for inclusion in her seasonal reports, or to the Secretary of the KBRC, Burt Monroe, P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40223.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNTS

1991-1992

Reports of 24 counts were received from across the state. A total of 117 species was recorded on count days, 104 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days that are not represented on the table include: one Great Egret (Warsaw), one Greater White-fronted Goose (Land Between the Lakes), one Redhead (Burlington), one Golden Eagle (Land Between the Lakes), one Merlin (Bernheim Forest), one Peregrine Falcon (Danville), one Ruffed Grouse (Perry County), one Dunlin (Lexington), one Lesser Black-backed Gull (Land Between the Lakes), one Common Barn-Owl (Lexington), one Long-eared Owl (Louisville), one Northern Saw-whet Owl (Perry County), and one White-winged Crossbill (Bernheim Forest). Another bird of interest observed during the count period but not on count day was an Oldsquaw (Louisville). There were 12 fewer species observed this year compared with last. The observations listed here are based on reports submitted to the editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*. Because unusual sightings are not subjected to formal peer review, they must be considered tentative pending further review. If you submitted a record of an unusual sighting you are encouraged to report such sightings to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee Secretary, Burt L. Monoe, Jr., P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40223.

The average daytime temperature remained near the 40 degree mark throughout the count period with fluctuations ranging from 17°F to 58°F. Although the variety of waterfowl was good, the numbers, similar to last year, remained down compared with previous years. Perhaps the mild weather was responsible for the lack of movement from the north. The number of loons and mergansers were back to levels more normal compared with the unusually high numbers last year. American Robins were everywhere and in very high numbers. Other birds appeared to be in usual abundance and species that lingered last year because of mild temperatures were not found this year.

Although questionable in scientific value because of the nature of the way the Mid-winter Bird Counts are conducted, observations of several long term trends need to be mentioned. Once again, no large blackbird-starling roosts were encountered in count areas. The number of Eastern Bluebirds continued to increase, and more so this year compared with last years increase, perhaps due to a long string of fairly mild winters. Loggerhead Shrike numbers also increased which is an encouraging sign. House Finch numbers were markedly increased over last year's numbers, bringing their numbers back up to those of previous years. However, House Sparrow and Purple Finch numbers which also declined markedly last year remained at low levels. For other observations of interest see the additional comments section for each count.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts.

CALLOWAY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential and 35% pastures and open fields. Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast/heavy fog; temp. 42°F to 44°F; wind SE, 0-2 m.p.h. Light rain in the p.m.

Sixteen observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 59 (24.5 on foot, 34.5 by

car). Total party-miles 348 (30 on foot, 318 by car). Total species 84; total individuals 8,430.

Observers: Rich Beam, Wally Brines, Gerald Carter, Hap Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Willard Gray, Bob Head, Rick Hokans, Sally Leedom, Mike Miller, Carl Mowery, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, LuAnne Philpot, Shari Sherwood and Tommy Sherwood.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 22%, overgrown and cultivated fields 28% and residential and small business 10%. Dec. 14: 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 38°F to 52°F; wind SW/NW, 5-25 m.p.h.

Twenty five observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 54.25 (24.75 on foot, 29.25 by car). Total party-miles 342 (23 on foot, 319 by car). Total species 90; total individuals 17,107.

Observers: Wally Brines, Richard Cassell, Happy Chambers, Jack Dodd, Lorine Dodd, Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Dan Frisk, Richard Healy, Bob Head, Nita Head, Rick Hokans, Sharon Hutchinson, Ruth Jacquot, Carl Mowery (compiler), Tim Neville, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, Lou Ann Philpot, Ed Ray, Sherry Sherwood, Tom Sherwood, Julie Smith, Ken Smith, Steve White.

Additional comments: Unusually warm temperatures and recent rains, causing the lake levels to rise, kept individual numbers lower than expected. The White-fronted Goose had been in the LBL for some time before count day and was spotted at Hematite Lake (CM, TN).

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat river bottom, hilly open fields and woods. Dec. 29: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 42°F to 44°F; wind NW, calm.

Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 18 (15 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 28 (4 on foot, 24 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 3,832.

Observers: C. L. Frazer (compiler) and Jim Frazer.

Additional comments: Three stops were made along the Ohio River and no ducks, geese, eagles, Ospreys nor shorebirds were spotted. The seven Wild Turkeys represented two toms and five hens.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279-S and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat fields, ditches, Green River, backyard feeder and thickets. Dec. 28: 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy, misty and rain; temp. 40°F to 44°F; wind N, 5 m.p.h.

Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 57 (13 on foot, 44 by car). Total party-miles 131 (13 on foot, 118 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 9,284.

One hundred acres generally included on walks were covered by backwater, several roads were under backwater, thus territory was limited.

Observers: Joe Ford, Neal Hayden, Jan Howard, John Humphrey, Bert Powell, Millie Powell, Philippe Roca, Lee Stevenson, Thomas Stevenson, Marilee Thompson, Ed Wilson (compiler) and Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON (points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Kentucky Highway 405 and junction at Route 662 at Yelvington, Ky.) Habitat Ohio River

Bottoms, Daviess County Fish and Game Farm — fence rows and roadside ditches. Dec. 21; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 42°F to 45°F; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h. Threatening to rain.

Nine observers in 5 parties in a.m. — 3 in p.m. Total party-hours 23 (5 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 39 (9 on foot, 30 by car). Total species 64; total individuals 1,477.

Maudie Ray and Millie Powell also covered the feeders in the Ray and Powell yards, respectively.

This count has shown a decline in the numbers of birds. Again, a small number of species of waterfowl was observed. The greatest concentration of species and numbers was at the feeders of Ray, Thompson and Powell. The Wild Turkey was found in a large pine forest behind the Ray house. Although only one Northern Bobwhite was found on count day, Mrs. Maudie Ray found a covey of 20 or more behind their house (*i.e.*, same place as the Wild Turkeys) on 22 December.

Observers: Mike Brown, Tony Eaden, Jan Howard, Donna Philips, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Marvin Ray, Maudie Ray, Bob Stocking and Mary Lee Thompson.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields, creek bottom and pond. Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sky partly sunny; temp. 35°F to 48°F; wind NE at 7-10 m.p.h.

Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8 (7 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 17 (7 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 23; total individuals 131.

The highlight of the trip was finding the red phase Eastern Screech-Owl.

Observers: Roseann Radzelovage (compiler), Walter Radzelovage and David Sanders.

PARADISE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Hopewell Cemetery in southern Ohio County.) Habitat 30% grasslands, 20% woodlands, 20% farmland, 20% brushy edges and fields, 10% lakes and streams. Jan. 1; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 26°F to 50°F; wind variable, 0-10 m.p.h. Most water open.

Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 31 (18 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 152 (7 on foot, 145 by car). Total species 72; total individuals 10,595.

Poor weather conditions on December 29 resulted in a hasty rescheduling of the count to New Year's Day; it was thought this would help participation also, but only 6 observers were able to take part. The weather was optimal with sunshine and warm temperatures, but the species total was lower than the last two years, in large part due to the lack of waterfowl; Canada's were the only geese seen, and only five species of ducks were located. Raptor numbers were definitely lower on the mines this winter; totals for Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls were all below previous years. Most highlights on the list were probably a result of the mild weather experienced so far this winter and included two Wood Ducks, a flock of Wild Turkeys, an Eastern Phoebe and seven Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Kathryn Clay, Richard Healy, Jr., Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler) and Joyce Porter.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green. Habitat deciduous forests 20%,

fields and pastures 70% and town and parks 10%. Dec. 14; 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to clear; temp. 43 to 40°F; wind NW, 20 m.p.h.

Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12 (10 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 77 (7 on foot, 70 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 2,150.

The blustery winds reduced the bird activity. House Finches continue to increase in number, and Purple Finches decline.

Observers: Joe Allen, Lloyd Curry, Blaine Ferrell, Bill Mathes, Ruth Mathes and H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 15; 6:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 23°F to 45°F; NW, calm in a.m. to 20 m.p.h. in p.m.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 7.75 (4 on foot, 3.75 by car). Total party-miles 38 (6 on foot, 32 by car). Total species 35; total individuals 1,435.

The adult Bald Eagle on Nolin River adjacent to First Creek Lake was the highlight of the count, especially since it was viewed from the ridge above. Despite the good crop of cedar cones, not many Cedar Waxwings were present. It was interesting to find House Finches feeding on the cedars. A large roost of American Robins was dispersing at the beginning of the count and wave after wave passed over us.

Observers: Lloyd Curry and Blaine Ferrell (compiler).

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1986.) Habitat as previously described in 1986. Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 35°F to 45°F; wind calm, 0-5 m.p.h.

Twenty three observers in 22 parties (19 feeder watchers). Total party-hours 56 (53.5 on foot, 2.5 by car). Total party-miles 52 (4.5 on foot, 47.5 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 1,808.

Observers: Alice Carner, Elsie Crouch, Osa Lee Follis, Marquita Gillenwater (compiler), Frances Goodman, Anne Harbison, Buck Jones, Frances Jones, Howard Jones, Arlene Lapham, Doris Ledendecker, Doris McKinley, Billie M. Moore, Elaine Murphy, Ruth Owen, Emma Jean Patrick, Melba Richardson, Bill Rodgers, Elizabeth Rogers, Russell Starr, Helen Tinsley, Mary F. Whiteside and Jennie York.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the intersection of Ky. Hwy. 54 and U.S. Hwy. 79 at Short Creek, Kentucky in Grayson County). Habitat woodlands, open fields, Rough River Lake, corn fields, yard feeders, river bottoms and ponds. Dec. 15; 5:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Sky clear a.m., thin strato-cirrus p.m.; temp. 17°F to 45°F; wind calm a.m. to 20-25 m.p.h. p.m.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 11.75 (2 on foot, 9.75 by car). Total party-miles 119 (3 on foot, 116 by car). Total species 45; total individuals 1,138.

Observers: Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Janet Howard, Joyce Porter (compiler).

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Craddock Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat woods, fields, Green River, and a 100 acre pond. Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 33°F to 37°F; wind calm. Occasional drizzle; damp day.

Six observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10.5 (5 on foot, 5.5 by car). Total party-miles 50 (5 on foot, 45 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 1,793.

Observers: Bruce Bardin, Lloyd Curry, Carol Friedman, Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton, and Mitchell Sturgeon.

GREEN RIVER LAKE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Lake Memorial Church.) Habitat Green River Lake, Taylor County Sportsman Lake, Green River, pine woods, mixed woods, overgrown fields, mowed fields and feeders. Dec. 26; 5:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 26°F to 52°F; wind S, 0-5 m.p.h. Other weather comments: Water in lakes was clear, open and calm.

Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 17 (11 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 82 (6 on foot, 76 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 934.

Owling took place between 5:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Early in the morning everything was covered by a very heavy frost, even well up into the trees. Two *buteo* sp., 1 *accipiter* sp. and 14 gull sp. were also observed on the count day.

Observers: Lloyd Curry (compiler), Richie Kessler and Jim Shoopman.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972). Habitat brushy fields 22%, woodlands 30%, farmland 34%, ponds, creeks and river 14%. Dec. 22; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast all day; temp. 38°F to 47°F; wind S, 6-7 m.p.h. Dense fog until 11:30 a.m., misting in the morning.

Thirteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 40 (30 on foot, 10 by car.) Total party-miles 176.5 (22.5 on foot, 154 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 11,519.

The count of species was below normal and may, in part, be attributed to the dense fog in the morning. Doe Valley Lake was entirely devoid of waterfowl. Comparing the 1991 figures with those of 1990, we find that there was a noticeable decrease in the number of sparrows, particularly the Field, Swamp, White-crowned and the Song Sparrow; an increase in the Eastern Bluebird, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle and the House Finch.

Observers: Janet Aylward, Mary B. Bauer, Kathryn Clay, Katie Fulkerson, Frank H. Krull, John Krull, Tom Jackson, Tim Love, Fred Mansmith, Lene Rauth, Helga Schutte, Anne L. Stamm (compiler) and Frederick W. Stamm.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Dec. 28; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 39°F to 44°F; wind SE, 0-10 m.p.h. Intermittent light showers and drizzle all day.

Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 38 (20 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 205 (13 on foot, 192 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 22,571.

Intermittent light showers and drizzle fell throughout the day, but the species total (68) is near the count record (72 in 1985-86). Two very rare birds were observed: a male White-winged Crossbill was found with a large flock of Pine Siskins inside the Forest (JB, PB) and a male Merlin was found in rural Bullitt County near Solitude and photographed (TL, MP). Both birds were relocated the following day by six observers, fully corroborating the reports. Other noteworthy observations included the Rough-legged Hawk, a Brown Thrasher and two Pine Warblers. Raptors were below average in numbers,

**MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1991-1992**

| | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGOH | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | PARADISE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NAT'L. PARK | GLASGOW | FALLS OF THE ROUGH | HART COUNTY | GREEN RIVER LAKE | OTTER CREEK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | FRANKFORT | KLEBER WMA | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | PERRY COUNTY | TOTAL |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|-------|
| COMMON LOON | 5 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | 12 |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | 8 | 32 | | | 2 | | 2 | | | | | * | 8 | | 2 | 11 | | | | 20 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | 94 |
| HORNED GREBE | 5 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | 25 |
| DOUBLE-CR. CORMORANT | | 200 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 27 | | | | 7 | 2 | | | | 238 |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 55 | 73 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 32 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 44 | 14 | 13 | 38 | | 317 |
| SNOW GOOSE | | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 15 |
| CANADA GOOSE | 57 | 420 | * | 7 | 50 | | 1309 | 22 | | | | 35 | | | 26 | 139 | 47 | 359 | | 153 | 298 | 195 | 7 | | 3124 |
| WOOD DUCK | 2 | 13 | | | | | 2 | | | | | * | | | | 237 | | | | 7 | | 3 | | | 264 |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | | 56 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 17 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | 77 |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | 2 | 60 | | | | | 5 | 2 | | | | | | 4 | | 109 | | | | 11 | 13 | 15 | 65 | | 286 |
| MALLARD | 23 | 782 | | 62 | 2 | 2 | 62 | 127 | | | | 8 | 13 | 163 | 64 | 1380 | 60 | 61 | 2 | 488 | 202 | 125 | 164 | 4 | 3792 |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | | 3 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 |
| GADWALL | 16 | 1103 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 6 | | | | | |
| AMERICAN WIGEON | 2 | 79 | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | 17 | 2 | | | 40 | 37 | 7 | 6 | | 1228 |
| CANVASBACK | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 61 | | 1 | 2 | | 152 |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 8 | | | | 2 | | | | | 11 |
| LESSER SCAUP | 2 | 24 | | | 6 | | 50 | | | | | 29 | | | 159 | | | | | 34 | 7 | 2 | | | 313 |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | 2 | 1 | | | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 48 | | | | | 2 | | 3 | | | 59 |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | 2 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 62 |
| BUFFLEHEAD | 9 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | 1 | | | | 28 | | 6 | | | 39 |
| HOODED MERGANSER | 3 | 211 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | | | | 9 | | 1 | 2 | | 303 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 38 | | | | 47 | | | | | |

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| WATER PIPIT | 778 | 295 | | 8 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 165 | 1 | 95 | 41 | * | 24 | 55 | 12 | 33 | 2 | 24 | 6 | 789 |
| CEDAR WAXWING | 18 | | | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | | | 62 |
| LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE | 1046 | 2035 | 1500 | 4275 | 150 | 810 | 1020 | 104 | 285 | 42 | 325 | 94 | 8082 | 7017 | 6216 | 898 | 958 | 247 | 19395 | 11935 | 610 |
| EUROPEAN STARLING | | | | | | 18 | 2 | 47 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 33 | 100 | 134 | 45 | 15 | 72 | 21 | 58 | | 40 |
| YELLOW-R. WARBLER | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 67935 |
| PINE WARBLER | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 737 |
| PALM WARBLER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 6 |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL | 844 | 156 | 200 | 227 | 123 | 10 | 113 | 46 | 8 | 244 | 39 | 105 | 67 | 158 | 250 | 412 | 82 | 162 | 70 | 304 | 2 |
| RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE | 84 | 36 | * | 12 | 18 | 3 | 26 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 22 | 66 | 23 | 2 | 15 | 8 | 12 | 2 |
| AM. TREE SPARROW | 4 | | | 1 | | | 14 | | | | | | | 5 | 10 | 5 | | 13 | | | 385 |
| FIELD SPARROW | 76 | 53 | 60 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 58 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 54 | 12 | 1 | 16 | 35 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 28 | 129 |
| SAVANNAH SPARROW | 3 | 1 | | | | | 7 | | | | | | | | 6 | | 1 | | | | 479 |
| FOX SPARROW | 9 | 8 | | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| SONG SPARROW | 142 | 32 | 8 | 71 | 24 | 5 | 191 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 90 | 12 | 64 | 118 | 209 | 18 | 67 | 72 | 193 | 2 |
| SWAMP SPARROW | 33 | 3 | | 6 | | | 102 | 2 | | 1 | 6 | | | 6 | 18 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 2 | | 35 |
| WHITE-THR. SPARROW | 263 | 143 | 46 | 4 | 43 | | 52 | 45 | 52 | 28 | 2 | 41 | 47 | 95 | 178 | 313 | 3 | 65 | 1 | 234 | 10 |
| WHITE-CR. SPARROW | 2 | 175 | 24 | 17 | | | 22 | 5 | 2 | 9 | | | | 34 | 9 | 17 | 32 | 14 | 104 | 85 | 217 |
| DARK-EYED JUNCO | 774 | 1475 | 600 | 23 | 90 | 16 | 208 | 10 | 26 | 44 | 143 | 18 | 78 | 159 | 418 | 427 | 44 | 158 | 219 | 292 | 1740 |
| RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD | 34 | 1251 | 1 | 230 | 4 | | 5775 | 34 | 30 | 6 | 175 | | | 251 | 5000 | 61 | * | 200 | 812 | 4 | 614 |
| E. MEADOWLARK | 100 | 36 | 2 | 28 | 34 | | 97 | 5 | 33 | 13 | 130 | 9 | | 60 | 42 | 13 | 31 | 13 | 2 | 19 | 5564 |
| RUSTY BLACKBIRD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 18 | 250 | 5 | | | | 5 | 13881 |
| COMMON GRACKLE | 44 | 107 | 150 | 630 | 6 | | 41 | 63 | 4 | 50 | 2 | 328 | 25 | 1 | * | 1030 | 5623 | 12 | | | 873 |
| BR-HEADED COWBIRD | 7 | 1 | | 130 | | | 100 | 155 | | 2 | 25 | 12 | | 5000 | 29 | 5 | | 309 | 305 | | 2344 |
| PURPLE FINCH | 10 | 2 | 11 | | 3 | 6 | 1 | *1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | | 6 | 14 | 3 | * | 6 | 33 | 12 | 8117 |
| HOUSE FINCH | 45 | 16 | * | 36 | 71 | | 3 | 110 | 5 | 298 | 32 | 165 | 39 | 279 | 153 | 490 | 17 | 52 | 2 | 1510 | 5 |
| PINE SISKIN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 75 | 23 | * | 6 | 40 | 3 | 6085 |
| AM. GOLDFINCH | 114 | 43 | | 31 | 40 | | 190 | 20 | 2 | 27 | 15 | 20 | 12 | 99 | 147 | 225 | 52 | 67 | 19 | 138 | 2 |
| HOUSE SPARROW | 593 | 45 | 140 | 204 | 200 | | 32 | 32 | 47 | 38 | 50 | 3 | | 175 | 150 | 320 | 35 | 140 | 36 | 421 | 1455 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2850 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|-----|
| DAY OF COUNT | D28 | D14 | D29 | D28 | D21 | D27 | J1 | D14 | D15 | J1 | D15 | D30 | D26 | D22 | D28 | D15 | D29 | D14 | D28 | D14 | D14 | D28 | D21 | D27 |
| NUMBER OF SPECIES | 84 | 90 | 44 | 56 | 64 | 23 | 72 | 51 | 35 | 46 | 45 | 50 | 52 | 61 | 68 | 86 | 44 | 54 | 43 | 88 | 72 | 65 | 67 | 41 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 8430 | 17107 | 3832 | 9284 | 1477 | 131 | 10595 | 2150 | 1435 | 1808 | 1138 | 1793 | 934 | 11519 | 22571 | 15405 | 1866 | 3800 | 4547 | 33802 | 21072 | 2794 | 4185 | 547 |
| OBSERVERS | 16 | 25 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 23 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 30 | 2 | 15 | 6 | 37 | 21 | 12 | 8 | 1 |

*Birds observed during the count period, but not on the count day. These birds are not counted in the total for individuals.

probably in large part due to the weather, but blackbirds were found in count record numbers. Other high counts included Red-headed Woodpecker (8), Horned Lark (250), Carolina Wren (87) and American Robin (1273).

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Dona Coates, Lloyd Curry, Jackie Elmore, Bradford Elmore, Richard Healy, Jr., Tim Love, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Don Parker, Martha Pike and Tony Smith.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 15; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to cloudy; temp. 25° to 39°F; wind W, 5-20 m.p.h. Wind increasing in the p.m.

Thirty observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 88.5 (43.5 on foot, 45 by car). Total party-miles 456 (39 on foot, 417 by car). Total species 86; total individuals 15,407.

Numbers of birds continue to remain low, primarily due once again to lack of any local blackbird-starling roost. High counts were established for Wood Duck (237), Hooded Merganser (38) and House Finch (490), the latter species continuing its dramatic population explosion. A *Long-eared Owl* was found by Mike Stinson and Fred Mansmith, a new species for the Louisville count. Also, one accipiter sp. was seen on the count day.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Janet Aylward, Mary Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Kathryn Clay, Dona Coates, S. A. Figg, Adrienne Hardesty, Tom Jackson, Frank Krull, Sr., Frank Krull, Jr., John Krull, Tim Love, Fred Mansmith, Burt Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Burt Monroe III, Mark Monroe, Dot Muntan, Doxie Noonan, J. R. Noonan, Martha Pike, Lene Rauth, Ginny Rommel, Helga Schutte, Anne Stamm, F. W. Stamm, Mike Stinson, Midge Susie, Scottie Theiss, (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center .75 miles south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY Highway 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farm land, fallow land, residential, wooded and grassland. Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast, raining and foggy; temp. 40°F to 47°F; wind W, 10 m.p.h. Visibility was poor the entire day.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10.5 (1 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party-miles 140 (1 on foot, 139 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 1,866.

Observers: Iris Brown and W. H. Brown (compiler).

Additional comments: No large concentrations of birds were seen.

FRANKFORT (center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 14; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 33°F to 54°F; wind WNW, 10-39 m.p.h. Some drizzle in a.m.; extremely windy.

Fifteen observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 51 (25.75 on foot, 25.25 by car). Total party-miles 249 (19 on foot, 239 by car). Total species 54; total individuals 3,800.

Food was abundant.

Observers: Brian Baker, James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Peggy Derryberry (compiler), James Durell, Scott Hankla, Eric Harrod, Jeff Jones, Susan Laurenson, Bill Mailfald, Carole Mailfald, Susan Taylor, Virginia Honaker, Debbie Williams and Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as

described in 1977.) Dec. 28; 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 37°F to 45°F; wind NE, 0-5 m.p.h. Intermittent rain with some fog.

Food was scarce with some blackberry, beggar weed, rose hips and acorns.

Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 32.25 (17.50 on foot, 14.75 by car.) Total party-miles 198.5 (17 on foot, 181.5 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 4,547.

Observers: W. H. Brown, Margaret Derryberry, Peggy Derryberry (compiler), James Durell, Eric Harrod, Tim Towles.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church and Bates Creek Road.) Habitat farmland and residential. Dec. 14; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy. 52°F to 58°F; wind S, 15 m.p.h.

Thirty seven observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 150 (12 on foot, 138 by car). Total party-miles 275 (22 on foot, 253 by car). Total species 88; total individuals 33,802.

There was lots of food. There were many robins and starlings. House Finch numbers were up, whereas, House Sparrow numbers were down.

Observers: Brad Andres, Sarah Andres, Earl Boggs, Rose Canon, Manton Cornette, Ruth Davis, Phyllis Deal, Edward Demoll, Howard Faulconer, Lyda Feck, Linc Fisch, Michael Flynn, Jean Flynn, Lulu Kirkland, Terri Koontz, Betty Maxson, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Ruth Morton, Sam Osborne, Father David Powers, Glenn Ralieg, Art Ricketts, Tina Ricketts, Sam Ritchie, Ed Seiler, Lewis Shain, Richard Stofer, Jr., Mrs. Richard Stofer, Jr., Mary Strong, Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, Andrew Uterhart, Marion Uterhart, Sally Wasielewski, Jim Williams, Jim Wilson and Bernice Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat water/edge 11%, urban 3%, cultivated 12%, field/fence 50%, wooded/edge 23% and feeder 1%. Dec. 14; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy a.m., clear p.m.; temp. 55°F to 40°F; wind W, 25 m.p.h.

Twenty-one observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 50.5 (9.75 on foot, 40.75 by car). Total party-miles 414 (18 on foot, 396 by car). Total species 72; total individuals 21,097.

In addition, six hawk sp. and 19 sparrow sp. were observed on the count day.

Observers: Ed Caldwell, Lois Corcoran, Robert Corcoran, Neil Eklund (compiler), Virginia Eklund, JoAnn Hamm, Michael Hamm, Tom Kearns, J. W. Kemper, Charles Kohler, F. W. Loetscher, Tom McKune, Mark Monroe, Jack Newton, John B. Nichols, Robert Pendygraft, Herb Petitjean, Margaret Rimstidt, Rose Roessler, Joe Russell, Charles Vahlkamp.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, KY.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 30%, farmland and fields 30%, streams and river 35% and residential 5%. Dec. 21; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 36°F to 39°F; wind NE, 0-10 m.p.h. Steady light rain persisted throughout the day. All water was open.

Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 34.5 (14.5 on foot, 20 by car). Total party-miles 201 (8 on foot, 193 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 2,794.

Steady rain kept overall numbers low, while species diversity remained high, in part due to the mild winter to date. Wild Turkeys appear to be well established in the area.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, John Bellamy, Vivian Brun, Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Lonnie Fields, Frank Lewandowski, Lee McNeely (compiler), Carmen Schulte and Gilbert Zembrodt. Feeder watchers were Pat Carroll, Marjorie Hill and Lynda McNeely.

WARSAW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse.) Habitat river and shore 35%, open field and farmland 30%, woodland and forest edge 30% and residential 5%. Dec. 21; 7:10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to overcast; temp. 37°F to 40°F; wind W, 5-15 m.p.h. Lakes, ponds and streams were partially frozen.

Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 23 (8 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 249 (2 on foot, 247 by car). Total species 67; total individuals 4,185.

Highlights included Common Loon, Great Egret, 11 species of waterfowl, 72 Black Vultures and large numbers of gulls. One dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk was seen.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Granville Carey, Darlena Graham, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Tommy Stephens and Deborah White.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sam Campbell's Branch, Perry County.) Habitat wooded uplands with open areas. Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Sky overcast; temp. 20°F to 35°F; wind calm.

One observer in 1 party. Total party-hours 16 (14 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 25. Total species 41; total individuals 542.

Observers: Don Spencer (compiler).

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF THE SMOKIES, by Fred J. Alsup, III. Copyright by Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association, Gatlinburg, TN. 37738. 168 pp., \$9.95 plus \$2.50 for postage and mailing. 1991.

Many K.O.S. members have become acquainted with Dr. Alsup through his excellent illustrated lectures at our annual meetings. We now have further evidence of his ornithological knowledge and photographic ability. The reader is introduced to Great Smoky Mountains National Park by a brief but adequate description of the Park, its habitats, seasons, trails, poisonous plants and animals, and a map of the Park showing roads, campgrounds, and picnic areas. The visitor to the Park is given a "short course" on locating birds (the importance of elevation, time of day, and season of the year), useful equipment (binoculars, telescopes, cameras, and literature), and a page of tips on photographing birds. Mnemonics (words and phrases representing the calls and songs of birds) are given for many of the species to assist in identification. A drawing of bird topography is provided by artist Ray Harm.

Most of the text consists of descriptions and photographs of 100 selected species and includes common and scientific names, length in both inches and centimeters, and a unique chart for each species showing the elevation and time of year to expect each species. For example, the Winter Wren is found at elevations above 4,500 feet in summer and below 3,000 feet in winter. Following is part of the description provided for the Kentucky Warbler: "a fairly common to common summer resident in deciduous woodlands below 3,500 feet. It arrives

in the park around the third week of April and departs around the third week of September. It is a bird of deep forests and prefers the moister slopes and ravines. Much of its time is spent on or close to the ground and the nest is placed on the forest floor."

Also includes his personal checklist of 238 species and a section entitled "Birder's Dozen" consisting of 12 species most often inquired about and where they may be found in the Park. His checklist includes symbols showing relative abundance and season or seasons of the year when each is found in the Park. Fifty-two species on his checklist are considered rare and thus not expected to be seen. He also describes two of his favorite birding trips in the Park, self-guiding nature trails, and birding at night and species you may encounter.

The author states that "the purpose of this book is to help further your enjoyment of birds" and "not intended to be used as a field guide." Readers will discover that the photographs and descriptions of identifying features, songs, behavior, and habitat make it an excellent field guide for the 100 described species. Differentiating characteristics are provided for similar species (Common Raven and American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee and Carolina Chickadee, etc.). An additional field guide will be needed for those species not described and illustrated. Interesting information is provided on the etymological origin of some common names and the meaning of many scientific names which may pertain to structural features, habits, or habitats.

Some may have the tendency to overlook this publication because of its small pocket size ($4\frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times \frac{1}{2}$ "). No space is squandered on flowery descriptions and verbose wandering; it is packed with information about birds and birding in one particular region of the United States. I was impressed not only with the species descriptions and photography but also with the construction which is important in flexible-backed books designed for field use. I tested the waterproof, tearproof cover and the Smythe sewn binding and was pleased with its durability. I now look forward to returning one day to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with this publication, taking some of the suggested field trips, and searching for some of my favorite bird species.

—H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, 4 April 1992 7:00 a.m.-? CST. Western Kentucky, Reelfoot Lake area, Hickman flood wall, Columbus-Belmont State Park are all possibilities for an interesting day of birding. Bring a sack lunch and meet at McDonalds on U.S. 60 off 12th Street in Murray, Kentucky. Leader: Carl Mowery (606-753-9371)

SUNDAY, ¹⁷ May 1992 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EST at the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery — for waders, spring migrants and summer residents. Meet at the administration building parking lot on U.S. 60 at Farmer, Kentucky near Morehead. For more information call the party leader. (Cave Run Lake is a possibility for the afternoon.) Leader: Fred Busroe (606-784-5661)

MONITORING OUR NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS

The dramatic declines of many species of woodland birds that migrate to the tropics have caused concern for monitoring population changes. I hope to

run counts in Cumberland Gap Natural Historical Park where counts made in 1978 and 1979 on 40 miles of trail and published in the Kentucky Warbler (56: 43-55, 1980) form a base for comparison. There is also a plan to initiate counts in the Red River Gorge. Other possibilities include the Big South Fork National Recreational Area, Mammoth Cave National Park and perhaps other areas. The extent of the project will depend upon the availability of volunteers who have good hearing, know the songs and call notes of woodland birds and enjoy long hikes on woodland trails.

I propose to make counts along substantial sections of trail, perhaps 5 to 10 miles. This would give large enough samples for statistically meaningful data on changes. Our first efforts would center around the weekend of May 23-24, 1992, with June 6-7 as a rain date. Since late May would have most of the transients on their way farther north already gone, but singing falls off rather dramatically after the first week in June, we have a rather small window of time for doing this project. For our first effort I would hope to make counts on Saturday and exactly repeat the procedure the next day. This would give us a measure of variance within counts and would be important for our statistical analysis of results. I would hope that we would publish our results about every five years.

People interested in helping with this project should contact Wayne H. Davis, School of Biological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506. Phone: (606-257-1828 at work, 606-277-4330 at home).

VSO FORAY TO BE IN LEE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

The Virginia Ornithological Society will be sponsoring a breeding bird survey in Lee County, Virginia June 16-21, 1992. Headquarters will be the Ramada Inn, Duffield, Virginia.

A VSO foray is a 5-day period of intensive field work in a selected area. If you would be interested in participating in any part of the foray period, please contact the foray director, John Dalmas at 520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502 or (804) 239-2730.

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held on April 24-26, 1992 at the Executive Inn Rivermont, Owensboro, Kentucky. Those members interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact Fred Busroe, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky 40351.

The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$8.00; Contributing, \$15.00; Student, \$4.00; Life, \$100.00; Family, \$2.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm, our staff artist, for this excellent painting of Kentucky Warblers (*Oporornis formosus*).

THE WINTER SEASON, 1991-92

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

This was a very mild winter season with little snow. In December the temperature averaged out four degrees above normal at Louisville. The rainfall was 5.23 inches, according to the Weather Bureau, which was almost two inches above normal, while in January the precipitation was below normal and the temperature above normal. February was warm. Paducah had a record of 70 degrees on February 3 while in Louisville the thermometer hit 71 degrees on February 18 and 22. The temperature averaged out for the month at Louisville 7.8 degrees above normal, and the precipitation was below normal. The ponds at MCFH were frozen for only three or four days during the winter period.

Abbreviations: BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Trigg/Lyon counties; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Lex = Lexington Reservoir, Fayette County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; McA = McAlpine Dam (Falls of the Ohio), Louisville, Jefferson County; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; ThP = Thurston's Pond, near Monticello, Wayne County; Tow = Towhead Island, Louisville, Jefferson County.

Loons through Herons — Although 12 Common Loons were present on five of the CBCs, only a few remained in January: one at Lake Linville, Rockcastle Co., January 9 (AR) and six at Lake Barkley on January 19; eight were on CRL, December 5, declining to three on December 30, two on December 31 and January 10, and one on February 1 and 9 (FB); there were also singles reported in Boone and Gallatin counties, December 1 and 21, respectively (LMc). Pied-billed Grebes were more numerous in late December this year than last year by slightly more than 100%. In January, three birds were present at Owsley Fork Lake, Jackson Co., on January 2 (AR, TR); four at Jonathan Creek, Marshall Co., January 17 (CP); six at Energy Lake-LBL, January 19 (JB, PB); and one at Bowling Green, Warren Co., January 31 (JB, PB). Two Horned Grebes were on CRL on December 21, one on December 27, and four on January 10 (FB); one was at Lex, February 9 (AR), and three at LPew February 27 (KC, LR). Large numbers of about 200 Double-crested Cormorants were present through December until early January at LBL and Lake Barkley (CP); at Louisville, singles were at the McA, December 4 (BM) and February 4 (BM, CMS), 12 on the north side of Shippingport Island, December 23 (LR), ten at Tow, January 29 (LR), and one there on February 10 (BM, CMS); and one was at Lex, February 9 (AR). Great Blue Herons were more numerous in late December than last year in Kentucky. The high water at Silo Overlook (LBL) drove the large concentration southward, and unusual numbers had not returned, even though lake levels were down (CP). Numbers increased noticeably in Boyle and Mercer counties (FL); 15-18 birds were at MCFH during the period except for 47 on January 20 (FB); seven birds were noted in Ohio Co., December 7 (KC); and four birds were at LPew on December 7-13, three on January 13, and one on February 11 (JH), while eight were noted there on February 27 (LR, KC); one to three occurred at McA, between January 28 and February 26 (BM, CMS),

while 24 were seen there on February 14 (LR); two wintered at BPS (KC); singles were noted in Rockcastle and Madison counties on January 9 and February 3, respectively (AR); and two were seen at Ky. Lake, January 19 (JB, PB). Two Great Egrets lingered and were seen at ThP, Wayne Co. near Monticello on December 14 (JEL) and one on the Warsaw CBC, December 21, at Craig's Creek, Gallatin Co. (several observers).

Waterfowl — A careful estimate of 3000 Snow Geese was made at Barlow Bottoms, Ballard Co., December 14 (MM); an adult blue morph and an adult white morph were present at MCFH, December 5-20, with the white phase individual remaining to December 31 (FB); an adult blue morph and subadult white morph observed at Dix Dam, Mercer Co., January 18 (WK, *vide* FL). It was said to be a poor winter for geese in Mercer and Boyle counties (FL). Geese moved north from BWMA the week of February 17-24 (CW). At the end of February about 150 Canada Geese were still present at BWMA (CW). Some 500+ were present near Wysox Lake, Ohio Co., December 7 (KC); 145 was the high count at LPew, December 7, and 50 still there on January 11 (JH); 50 birds were seen flying south over Madisonville, Hopkins Co., February 27 (JH); 30 at SWMA, February 27 (KC, LR); 19 was the largest group at a small pond near Northern Junior High School at Somerset, Pulaski Co., January 15 (JEL); numbers peaked at Herrington Lake, Mercer County, January 21, with 700 (RH); and counts at MCFH were higher than normal due to an influx of migratory birds (FB).

The duck population was stable during the winter at BWMA. There was not the diversity of ducks this year from the northward movement (CW). Most ducks had moved out by the end of February with about 600-700 remaining, and they were mostly Mallards, Am. Black Ducks and Hooded Mergansers (CW). Wood Ducks were unusually high in numbers on the Louisville CBC (237) on December 15; very few were reported in January or February. Thirty Green-winged Teal were present at ThP, December 14 (JEL); 11, in Mercer Co., January 1 (FL); 10, Lex, February 9 (AR); and 1 male, Tow, January 29-February 19 (BM, CMS). Eighty-five Am. Black Ducks was the maximum number in Mercer Co., January 20 (FL, WK); 2, Lake Barkley, January 19 (JB, PB); 250+ at a strip mine lake in eastern Pulaski Co., near Ano, Clifty Church Road, January 18 (JEL); 92 on the Ohio River between Milton, Trimble Co., and Louisville, January 21 (RH); 24, Lex, February 9 (AR); 1, LPew, Feb. 11 (JH); and about 20 at SWMA, February 27 (KC, LR). A Northern Shoveler was still present in Mercer Co., December 5 (FL); one male and two females were at MCFH, December 5 (FB); six, December 14 on Lexington CBC and one on the Louisville CBC, December 15. Spring migrants appeared at Lentz's Pond, Louisville, February 7, with a male accompanied by three females; this group remained, with females varying from three to five, through February 26 (BM). 400 Gadwall were seen at Bailey Hollow, Calloway Co., December 5 (CP); 30, ThP, December 14 (JEL); 27 on December 14, with some present all winter in Boyle Co. (FL); singles in Ohio Co., December 7 (KC) and LPew, January 1 (JH); 6 males, 15 females at McA, February 7 (BM, CMS); and 7, Lex, February 9 (AR). Am. Wigeons were found in seven counties with the largest concentration (100+) at ThP (JEL). One to six birds at all other locations except Lentz's Pond, where they ranged from 1-9 birds from February 4-24; one of the four males on February 7 had a creamy forehead extending around the bill and through the malar, throat and chin area (BM). There was one Redhead in Mercer County in mid-January (WK, *vide* FL); up

to 14 males and four females on CRL, February 8-19 with a single male remaining February 21-22 (FB); and four males and one female on Owsley Fork Lake, February 29 (AR, TR). Canvasbacks were more common this winter than usual: 18, LPew, December 26, and 25 on January 11 (JH); 30, Jonathan Creek, Marshall Co., January 11 (MM), 51, January 17 (MM, CP), 55, January 24 and 27 (CP; at Louisville, 8-12 at McA or Tow, January 28-February 12 (BM, CMS); and 1 drake near Ano, Pulaski Co., January 18 (JEL). The Ring-necked Duck high count at LPew was 410 on December 7, 79 on January 13, and no records there in February (JH); 50, University of Kentucky Agricultural Farm, Fayette Co., January 5 (WD); 125+, near Ano, Pulaski Co., January 18, and 100 at ThP, December 24 (JEL); 22 was the high count at Tow, January 29 (BM, CMS); 28, Marshall Co., February 13, and ± 28 , LBL, February 29 (CP); 1-4 at Middletown quarry, Jefferson Co., January 28-February 27 (BM); 1, Crescent Hill Reservoir, Louisville, January 29 (BM, CMS); 6, Madison Co., January 5 (AR); 3, Mercer Co., December 5, but none in winter (FL); and 5 in Ohio Co., December 7 (KC). There were ± 360 Greater Scaup above Barkley Dam, February 8 (CMS). Lesser Scaup were reported in low numbers all across the state. In fact, there were only 59 birds on the 24 CBCs. At Tow, numbers ranged from 20-41, January 29-February 27 (BM, CMS). There were only four reports of Common Goldeneye: 3 in Mercer Co., January 20 (FL); 2, Lex, February 9 (AR); 35 at Hardy Slough, SWMA, February 27 (LR); and more than 70, Silo Overlook, LBL, Lyon Co., February 29 (CP). Relatively few reports of Bufflehead were made this winter: an average of 25 per visit were present on MCFH during the period, with normal numbers also observed on CRL (FB) and a report of 35 on January 11 (AR); 2, Mercer Co., December 5, but none in winter (FL); 2, Ohio Co., December 17 (KC); regularly small numbers (2-5) in western Kentucky (CP); 6, Lake Barkley, January 19 (JB, PB); 1-2 females, Tow, January 29-February 27 (BM, CMS); and 1, McA, February 7 (BM, CMS). The largest concentration of Hooded Mergansers was ± 200 south of Bailey Hollow, Calloway Co., January 21 (CP); 30, Lex, February 9 (AR); 1, Mercer Co., December 14 (FL); 2, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, January 25 (JB, PB); 4, Tow, January 29 and February 12 (BM, CMS); 8, Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, Hardin Co., February 9 (KC, LR); and an average of 12 per visit during the period was noted at MCFH (FB). A concentration of 120 Common Mergansers was noted at Lake Barkley, January 19 (JB, PB); 1 or 2, Tow, January 28-February 12 (BM, CMS); two males, near the dam at CRL, February 15 (FB). Thirty-nine Red-breasted Mergansers were reported at Owsley Fork Lake, Madison Co., December 10 (DCh), 4 there on February 29 (AR); one male, near dam at CRL, February 19-22 (FB); and 2 males on Ohio River south of Warsaw, Gallatin Co., February 29 (LMc). Ruddy Ducks were present at LPew December 7-February 18, peaked at 50 on December 26, one there on the latter date (JH); only small numbers elsewhere (1(6)).

Hawks through Cranes — Black Vultures were present in fair numbers in December, with 33 near Monticello, Wayne Co., December 18 (JEL); winter roosts of 67 at Ghent Power Plant, Carroll Co., on the Warsaw CBC, December 21, and 64 at the East Bend Power Plant, Boone Co., Burlington CBC, December 28 (LMc); 100+ vultures, about half Black and half Turkey, were along the Ky. River at the Jessamine-Mercer Co. line, January 12 (CMS); 4, Ohio Co., December 7 (KC); 8, Grayson Co., (KC); and 1, Madison Co., February 12 (AR). Although 143 Turkey Vultures were on the 13 CBCs, the 14 birds between junction of Hwy 841 and Shelbyville Road along I-64, Jefferson Co., February 29, were early migrants (DS); 1, Russell Co., February 7 (AR). At

the time we went to press, the Fish and Wildlife Resources biologists were still trying to total up the number of Bald Eagles sighted on the January annual survey. Approximately 207 were reported this year in Kentucky (JD). Single adults were present at MCFH between December 8 and February 15, an immature on February 29; four adults were there on December 20, and 1 immature at CRL on January 20; on January 10, the eagle count day, the combined count of MCFH and CRL included all four adults and the immature (FB). Nine birds were counted at LBL on January 19 (JB, PB), and a fourth-year bird (white head, some white on wing linings, tail dark) was noted at McA, February 7 (BM, CMS). The high count of Northern Harriers in the strip mine area of Ohio County was 15, December 7 (KC); 1-2 birds in Boyle and Mercer counties, and at 3 locations in Pulaski Co. (FL, WK, JEL). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported from only four counties: Jefferson (CMS), Madison (AR), Jackson (AR), and Pulaski (JEL). However, the species was on 16 of the 24 CBCs with an increase of 10 birds over last year CBCs. Single Cooper's Hawks were observed in Berea, Madison Co., January 9 (AR), Science Hill, Pulaski Co., December 18 (JEL), and Morehead, January 7 and February 29 (FB); "observed a number of times" in Boyle and Mercer counties during the period (FL, WK); two were at CRL, January 10 (FB). There were only four reports of single Red-shouldered Hawks in Ohio (KC), Hopkins (JH), Fayette (LR) and Clinton (JEL) counties. Red-tailed Hawks were in stable numbers: a total of 435 birds on the 24 Kentucky CBCs. Rough-legged Hawks were in good numbers this year, and appeared on 11 CBCs. Danville reported the best season they ever had (FL); 2 (1 dark phase), Mercer Co., January 12 (CMS); 6 (1 dark phase), Ohio Co., December 7 (KC). Although few reports of Am. Kestrel were received, the species is doing well and stable. One male *Merlin* was encountered near Bernheim Forest, Bullitt Co., December 29 (Martha Pike, Tim Love) and verified the following day (JB, PB, KC, LR, *et al.*, photo by Love). A Peregrine Falcon was seen in the vicinity of McA, January 8 (LR).

Wild Turkey is increasing in northern Kentucky, with 30 birds at East Bend, Boone County, February 1 (LMc), and reported on 9 CBCs. Am. Coots were present at LPew, December 7-February 18, and peaked there with 260 on December 7 tapered off in mid-January, but built up to 195 on February 11 (JH); peak number at Dale Hollow Lake, Clinton Co., was 900, December 10, with 400 still there January 7 (RH); 40, Lake Linville, Rockcastle Co., December 12 (AR); and numbers down from last year at Bailey Hollow, Calloway Co. (CP). Migrating Sandhill Cranes during December included 16 over Windsor Forest Lake, southwestern Jefferson Co., December 2 (DS), 150, Oldham Co., December 4 (Nancy Theiss, *fide* BM), 75, over Ten Broeck subdivision, Jefferson Co., December 6 (F. Williams, *fide* FS), 30, Pulaski Co., December 11 (JEL). Spring migrants appeared at Prospect, Jefferson Co., by February 14, with 10 birds (*fide* JK), 18 over BPS, February 28 (KC), and 4-5 arrived at BWMA during February (CW). Two birds have been seen during the season flying over BPS and over to Falls of the Rough (KC, *et al.*).

Shorebirds through Gulls — Five Greater Yellowlegs, rather early spring migrants, were in a flooded field near Hardy Slough, SWMA, February 27 (LR). Five Pectoral Sandpipers had arrived at Hardy Slough, SWMA, February 27 (LR). Heavy rains in December raised the lakes (LBL) to summer pool and ruined shorebird habitat for would-be lingering birds. A few Common Snipe were reported; 1, Madison Co., January 1 (AR), and MCFH, December 27 (FB); 3, LPew, February 3, but 12 there February 11 (JH); 5 near SWMA,

February 27 (LR). Four to five Am. Woodcock were observed and heard off Hwy. 70E near Eubank, Pulaski Co., February 20 (JEI); 2 were at BPS, February 24 (KC). Thirty plus Bonaparte's Gulls were still present at McA, December 4 (BM); 105+, Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski Co., December 17 (JEI); 1, the latest observed at Dix Dam, Mercer Co., was December 20 (FL); 1-3, McA, January 28-29 (BM, CMS); well above normal numbers at MCFH between December 5 and February 29, peaking with 75 on December 21 (FB). CP reports one of the largest flocks of Ring-billed Gulls on Ky. Lake and Barkley Lake that he has ever seen. "Thousands on every bar from the dams to the Tennessee line, thousands upon thousands roosting." Approximately 280 at Sledd Creek, Ky. Lake embayment, Marshall Co., February 9 and 15 (MM); 300+, McA, December 4 (BM); poor numbers in Danville area (FL). The Warsaw CBC had 700 birds; the LBL CBC had 5,421 birds. Well above normal numbers were present at MCFH through the period, with the highest number about 400 on February 1 (FB). Ten Herring Gulls at Rabbit Hash, Boone Co. was the high count there, January 20 (LMc); three, McA, January 28-29, and two, February 27 (BM, CMS); at MCFH, two on January 3, six on February 9, and three on February 15 (FB); none at Dix Dam area (FL).

Owls through Kinglets. — A single Long-eared Owl was found at the Mayfair basins, Louisville, Jefferson Co., December 15, on Louisville CBC (CMS, F. Mansmith). Four Short-eared Owls were observed near Wysox Lake, Ohio Co., January 25 (KOS field trip, KC). Numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were much improved over last year in late December. Numbers of Northern Flickers greatly increased over last year in late December. There were 29 Eastern Phoebe on 14 of the 24 Kentucky CBCs; 1, Owsley Fork Lake, Jackson Co., December 10 (AR); and 1, Disputanta, Rockcastle Co., January 9 (AR). Numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were good in late December, more so than last year, and the species was recorded on 20 of the 24 Kentucky CBCs; 4, all season at BPS, and 4 in the strip mine area, Ohio Co., December 17 (KC); and 1, Berea, Madison Co., January 2 (AR).

Thrushes through Warblers — Hermit Thrushes were present in slightly improved numbers over last December and appeared on 10 CBCs as compared to 7 last year; only report in January was for 4 birds at LBL, January 10 (JB, PB). Am. Robins were unusually numerous during the entire period. A total of 22 Brown Thrashers was on 11 CBCs; single birds at BPS, January 14 (HC), CRL, January 10 (FB), and Morehead, January 20 and February 22 (FB). Cedar Waxwings were numerous in late December and widespread, but few reports were received for January and February: 2, LBL, January 19 (JB, PB); 9, MCNP, January 31 (JB, PB); and 25, LPew, February 11 (JH). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were noted at Beaver Dam, Ohio Co., December 7 (JB, PB), Bullitt Co., December 29 (JB, PB), and at Short Creek and at Hopewell Church Road, Grayson Co., all season (KC); 3, on Hwy. 79 to Caneyville, Grayson Co., January 19 (KC); and 1, along the road 1.5 miles from Hardy Slough, SWMA, February 27 (LR). Yellow-rumped Warblers were present in good numbers in late December primarily in central Kentucky; the 32 in Lincoln Co., February 8, was a good number for this time of year (FL). Two Pine Warblers were seen at BPS, February 29 (KC); and 1 singing male was at Laurel River Lake, Laurel Co., February 29 (JEI). A Palm Warbler was seen December 5 and January 6, Danville, Boyle Co. (FL).

Sparrows through Siskins — In Boone and Gallatin counties, Am. Tree Sparrows were up slightly from last year's figures in late December (LMc). Single Fox Sparrows were noted at the following locations: Anchorage, Jefferson Co., on 9 dates between January 18 and February 26 (BM, MMo); Cherokee Park, Louisville, January 25 (JB, PB); and Danville, Boyle Co., January 7 (DCh). White-throated Sparrows were in good numbers this winter and widespread, although not reflected in the reports. Twenty-five male Red-winged Blackbirds at a feeder in Morehead, February 22, was probably a group of migrants (FB). A male *Yellow-headed Blackbird* was encountered on the ground at the edge of an enormous flock of blackbirds (mostly grackles), north of Burgin, Mercer Co., January 10 (FL, WK). Three hundred plus Rusty Blackbirds were seen in a flooded field near Hardy Slough, SWMA, February 27 (LR). A large roost of blackbirds was found February 8 near Stanford, Lincoln Co. (WK). The roost contained an estimated 750,000 Common Grackles, 500,000 Eur. Starlings, a few Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds, but Rusty Blackbirds were not noted in the flock (FL, WK). Purple Finches were reported only in small numbers, with the exception of 31 at a feeder in Cox's Creek, Bullitt Co., January 26 (DC); 30 at MCNP, January 31 (JB, PB); and 10 at BPS, February 29 (KC). Pine Siskins were scarce in western Kentucky and when present elsewhere were found in low numbers: 11, BPS in the month of December (KC); 3, Berea, December 1 and January 1 (AR); 2, southwestern Jefferson Co., January 16 (DS); 20, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, January 25 (JB, PB), also 2 there on January 18 and 26 (CMS); at feeder in Anchorage, Jefferson Co., through period until February 28, highest number 17 on February 12 (BM, MMo).

Thanks to all the contributors (listed below), who sent notes, records, etc. for the Winter Season. We appreciate your participation in making this report possible, and we look forward to your continued support.

Contributors — Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Fred Busroe (FB), David Chaffin (DCh), Herbert L. Clay, Jr. (HC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Dona Coates (DC), Wayne Davis (WD), Jim Durell (JD), Jackie Elmore (JEl), James W. Hancock (JH), Richard Hines (RH), William Kemper (WK), John Krull (JK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MMo), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art Ricketts (AR), Teena Ricketts (TR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), C. Michael Stinson (CMS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Wilkins (CW), Alita Wilson (AW).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, and P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40223.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING — APRIL 24-26, 1992

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1992 spring meeting 24-26 April at the Executive Inn-Rivermont in Owensboro. Fifty-two individuals registered for the meeting.

President Lee McNeely welcomed members and guests to the meeting at the opening session Friday evening. Vice-president Fred Busroe introduced Joe Ford, retired director of the Owensboro Area Museum, who gave an introduction to local history and attractions. A brief presentation of slides taken

by K.O.S. members followed, after which field trip leaders described the trips they had planned for Saturday morning. An informal social hour followed the conclusion of the session.

Saturday morning was cool and breezy when members gathered for field trips at 8 a.m. Four groups visited various areas near Owensboro, including Yellow Creek, Panther Creek, Ben Hawes State Park, and Newburgh Dam and vicinity. Another group visited reclaimed strip mine areas in southern Ohio County.

In response to a petition signed by seventeen members, a discussion session was convened Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Following brief comments on the morning field trips, those present spent about two hours discussing several topics of concern. These included the operation of the Kentucky Bird Hotline, the process by which K.O.S. members may address their concerns to the Board, the status of the Gordon Wilson and Endowment funds and their intended uses, the role of the Curator as understood in the past and present, possible ways to increase the level of interest and activity among the membership, the status of the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas, and the functioning of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. After the discussion session ended, the K.O.S. Board met until about 5:30 p.m.

The Saturday evening program began at 7:30 p.m. President Lee McNeely introduced the speaker, Dr. Lowell Ford. His presentation "The Sacred Sands," featured slides of birds, flowers, shells, and shorelines taken on Sanibel Island, Florida. Dr. Ford delivered an original narrative to accompany the slides. After the presentation Mike Stinson compiled a list of the day's bird sightings, with 122 species reported. A business meeting scheduled to follow the program was cancelled.

Before leaving the area on Sunday morning, one group visited the Ohio River bottoms in eastern Daviess County while another birded the Sauerheber unit of Sloughs Wildlife Management Area near Henderson.

— C. MICHAEL STINSON, Recording Secretary

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING

Birds observed on Saturday field trips within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at the Executive Inn-Rivermont, Owensboro and at a reclaimed strip mine in Ohio County (indicated by an "o") included: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret^o, Cattle Egret, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow^o, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned

Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler°, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler°, Prairie Warbler°, Palm Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak°, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow°, Henslow's Sparrow°, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 122 species. Birds added on the Sunday trip to Saueheber included: Sora, Semipalmated Plover, Dunlin, and Stilt Sandpiper for a total of 126 species.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| BOWLING GREEN: | Blaine Ferrell, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Shadowen |
| BURLINGTON: | Joe and Cathy Caminiti, Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely |
| CARLISLE: | Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver |
| COX CREEK: | Dona Coates |
| ELIZABETHTOWN: | Joan M. Noel |
| FALLS OF ROUGH: | Joyce L. Porter, Dora Lee St. Clair |
| GLASGOW: | Marquita Gillenwater, Dr. Russell Starr |
| HODGENVILLE: | Susan L. Cruse |
| LEXINGTON: | Jean and Mike Flynn, Gerry and Jim Williams |
| LEITCHFIELD: | Alita Wilson |
| LOUISVILLE: | Bob Brown and Judi Jones, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay, Dr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stamm, C. Michael Stinson |
| MACEO: | Bert and Millie Powell |
| MOREHEAD: | Fred Busroe |
| OWENSBORO: | Joe Ford, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Janet Howard, Larry and Donna Phillips, Wendell and Marilee Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wilson |
| PADUCAH: | Bernice Caddell |
| STANLEY: | Tom and Anna Stevenson |
| UTICA: | Tony and Brenda Eaden |
| DYERSBURG, TN: | Ken and Betty Leggett |

BOOK REVIEW

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE NEW RIVER GORGE AREA, by Gary Worthington, James D. Phillips, and Don Kodak. Published by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. 52 pages, \$2.00. 1990.

This inexpensive publication summarizes the occurrence of birds along the West Virginia section of the New River, famed for its deep gorge and rushing whitewater. The booklet begins with a brief introduction to birding in the New River region. This is followed by a series of 27 site guides to birding spots which form the heart of the text. The main value of this publication is the detailed information contained in these site guides.

The birding locales included are scattered along the course of the New River from where it crosses into the state at the Virginia border to its junction with the Gauley River to form the Kanawha at Gauley Bridge. Each account contains directions accurate to one-tenth of a mile for driving to a birding area, along with notes on the birds likely to be seen upon arrival. When appropriate, warnings are given concerning rough roads, and brief notes on local flora, other fauna, and history are also occasionally included. Maps are also provided to locate each birding spot in relation to nearby roads and communities.

A rough but usable bar graph follows the bird-finding section. It indicates on a month-by-month basis the occurrence of all but the rarest species found in the New River Gorge area; species which have been found only a few times in recent decades are mentioned in a separate list. The graph does not include exact or average dates for the earliest or latest occurrences of species, and might be a bit ambiguous as a result — for instance, if a reader is trying to decide whether Blackburnian Warblers should appear in mid-April, late April, or early May. I also noticed that the graph does not show Cliff Swallows as summer residents in the area, though I observed a colony in June 1990 at Gauley Bridge, a location included in the text. Nevertheless, the graph is serviceable, and provides a convenient checklist of bird species likely to be found in the area.

Using this booklet can help make a birding trip to West Virginia productive. For birders visiting the state, it can suggest where to spend a brief stop or an extended stay. The bird-finding information it presents is a welcome complement to George Hall's monograph on West Virginia birds (*West Virginia Birds: Distribution and Ecology*, Carnegie Museum of Natural History Special Publication No. 7, 1983). I have used the booklet once in the field, on a brief visit to the lower New River Gorge, and I plan to do so again. It helped me put my limited time to best use, and I believe it can do the same for others.

—C MICHAEL STINSON, Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. Field Trips

A trip is scheduled for Saturday, June 13-Sunday, June 14 to southeast Kentucky for rare Kentucky breeders including the Common Raven, Swainson's Warbler, Canada Warbler and Veery. We will leave from Parkway Inn, Route

15 in Whitesburg at 7:00 a.m. EDT, Saturday for Black Mountain. Sunday will be a half-day trip to Bad Branch. For more information call C. Michael Stinson at (502) 897-6048.

Owl Reprints Wanted

Authors of articles or publications dealing with owls and wishing them to be listed in the second edition of a *Working Bibliography of Owls of the World* are asked to send reprints to: Richard J. Clark, The Owl Bibliography, c/o Department of Biology, York College of Pennsylvania, York, PA 17405-7199.

Rare Bird Alert Hotline Alert

Just a reminder that the K.O.S. sponsored Kentucky Rare Bird Alert hotline is in service at (502) 894-9538. Mike Stinson will be updating the tapes with your reports of unusual sightings from around the state. If you would like to report a rare bird sighting without listening to the entire tape, press the asterisk on your touchtone phone.

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$8.00; Contributing, \$15.00; Student, \$4.00; Life, \$100.00; Family, \$2.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm, our staff artist, for this excellent painting of a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).

THE SPRING SEASON, 1992

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

This was an unusually warm spring. In the Louisville area the temperature for March and April averaged out above normal, while in the month of May it was below normal. On March 2 the temperature at Paducah was 77 degrees and broke the record. Precipitation in Louisville for the month of March was above normal while in April and May the rainfall was below normal. This weather pattern prevailed, for the most part, fairly constant throughout the state.

Migration began early. The majority of the ducks had moved north by the first of March. In northern and eastern Kentucky, migration was uneventful. Movements of birds were noticed particularly in late March, April 8-10, May 2, and May 9.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BNP = Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve, Louisville, Jefferson County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; Bon = northern part of Reelfoot Lake Refuge, south of Bondurant, Fulton County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; Dan = Danville area, Boyle and Mercer Counties; DD = Dix Dam, Mercer County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; L#9 = Lake #9, Fulton County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Trigg/Lyon counties; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Lei = Leitchfield, Grayson County; McA = McAlpine Dam, Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; NBSP = Natural Bridge State Park, Powell County; Pul = Pulaski County Park; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; ShI = Shippingport Island, Louisville, Jefferson County.

Loons through Cormorants — A single Common Loon was noted at LPew, March 17 (JH), four were there on March 28 (LR, KC), small numbers (1-3) were scattered thereafter from Barkley and Kentucky dams (BM, MM, CMS) to Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County and Pul (JEL), with the latest (2 birds, 1 basic plumage, 1 alternate plumage) at Kentucky Dam, May 26 and 27 (BM, MM, CMS). As expected, small numbers of Pied-billed Grebes appeared in March with the earliest (2 birds) at LPew, March 6 (JH); eight at Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County, March 16 (DCh); four at Bon, April 10 (CP); and one at Madisonville City Lake #4, Hopkins County, April 12 (JH). One Horned Grebe was reported at DD, March 28-April 6 (FL), and five at CRL, March 29 (FB). A *Western Grebe*, an extremely rare visitant here, was reported at Green River Lake near the marina, Taylor County, March 1 (JEL, CMS, m.ob.), March 5 (DCh) and March 8 (BBC, KC). Fair flocks of Double-crested Cormorants began appearing in Kentucky in March: about 300 noted at Bon, March 28 (CP) and 100 in Ballard County (CP), 21 at ShI, April 15 (LR), six at Lake Barkley, Trigg County, April 15 (CP), and four at DD, April 28 (FL, WK); May records included 50 birds in the vicinity of Hamlin, Calloway County (CP), flock of 29 in flight over I-24 NE of Cadiz, Trigg County (BM, MM), eight at Swan Pond, Ballard County (CP), 10+ at Barkley Dam and one at Kentucky Dam, May 3 (BM, MM), and four birds at Kentucky Dam, May 3 and 10 (BM, MM, CMS).

Hérons — The Great Blue heronry in New Concord, Calloway County was "thriving" (CP), good numbers were noted in far western Kentucky (CP), as many as 30 were at MCFH, March 11 (FB) and one to two birds were observed in Barren, Hardin, Hopkins, Grayson and McLean counties. A single Great Egret was first noted at MCFH on March 10, with up to five on May 2 (FB); seven at Bon, April 4 (CP), and by May 2 more were scattered with four birds at Bon (BM, MM), three at L#9 (BM, MM), and five were at Thurston's Pond, Wayne County (JEL); 15+ were present at L#9, May 9 (BM, MM,

CMS); 25 were in the vicinity of Swan Pond, Ballard County, May 15 (CP); and eight were at Shl, May 15 (LR). First observation of Snowy Egret (one bird) was at L#9, May 9 (BM, MM, CMS); four were observed at Swan Pond, Ballard County, May 15 and 23 (CP); and 1 at MCFH on May 27 (Mike Hearn) and May 30 (LK, FB) was the first for this area. Little Blue Herons were present at Bon (six birds) on April 4 and tied our state early record (CP); 40 were noted in Ballard County, April 10 (CP); one adult was unexpected at Lentz's Pond, Louisville, April 27 (BM); five birds were in flight at Bon, May 2 (BM, MM); and 32 (four white, first-year birds, and 28 adults) at Swan Pond and BWMA, May 23 (CP). Interesting was the flock of 100+ Cattle Egrets feeding on a farm with cattle in Boyle County, May 3 (B. G. Tucker, *vide* FL); the species first appeared in small flocks in Calloway County in late April and early May (CP); five were noted in Hickman County near Highway 51, May 2 (KC); 91 were observed south of Barlow and 16 were near Barlow, Ballard County, on May 12 and 15, respectively (CP). Single Green-backed Herons were reported for the most part and by few observers, except for MCFH; earliest observation there was five on April 12, with the average number of 25 birds per trip since then. Eighty-five Black-crowned Night-Herons had reached Shl by March 25, where they have nested previously (LR); single birds were noted at two locations in Boone County on May 8 and 9 (LMc, JC, KCa, TS) and at MCFH, May 6 and 30 (FB).

Waterfowl — Five Snow Geese were still noted flying over Madisonville, Hopkins County, March 3 (D. W. Hancock, *vide* JH). The majority of wintering ducks had moved out by March 1 due to the mild winter. Few sizeable flocks were noted. A flock of 31 Green-winged Teal was present at SWMA (LR, KC) and 25 at Bon (CP), March 28, whereas about 200 Blue-winged Teal were at Bon, March 28 and April 10 (CP); in addition, a pair of Green-winged was at MCFH, March 11 (FB), and from one to 32 Blue-winged Teal were found at six locations. Four Am. Black Ducks were at MCFH, March 27 (FB). Fifteen N. Shovelers were at Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County, April 4 (JEL); on March 28, a flock of 95 was the high count at SWMA and about 60 were at Bon (CP). A count of 92 Redheads was a high number, observed on a pond on Highway 42 at Prospect, April 5 (FM). Ring-necked Ducks were present at the Middletown quarry, Jefferson County, from March 2-April 3, with a high count of 102 on the latter date (BM); 18 were at MCFH, March 11 (FB); and 29 were on a pond in Somerset, Pulaski County, March 19 (JEL). A female Greater Scaup was noted at Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County, March 19 (LMc). Forty-five Lesser Scaups were present in the Ohio River basin, March 3 (LR); 15 at Towhead Island, March 14 (BM); 51 at DD, April 4 (WK *vide* FL); and one to four birds at Middletown quarry, Barkley Dam, Kentucky Dam, April 11-May 10 (BM, MM, and with CMS on latter date). Ten Common Goldeneyes were still present at LPew, March 28 (LR, KC). Flocks of up to 25 Bufflehead were at CRL on March 28 and MCFH, March 11-April 12 (FB); a pair was observed at Barkley Dam, May 2 (BM, MM). At MCFH and CRL, three to five Hooded Mergansers were seen each trip in March and April, these numbers were slightly below normal (FB); two were noted at MCNP, March 2, and at Kentucky Lake, April 18 (JB, PB); and a pair was at Kentucky Dam, May 3 (BM, MM). Red-breasted Mergansers were found at five locations, with the latest at Kentucky Dam, May 9 (BM, MM, CMS). The largest concentration of Ruddy Ducks was 72 at LPew, March 28 (LR, KC).

Hawks — Few Black Vultures were reported: one to five birds were noted in Grayson, Jefferson and Powell counties during March and April, although normal numbers (up to 18) were noted at MCFH in May (FB). A flock of 30 Turkey Vultures was migrating north, near Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County, March 16 (DCh). There were fourteen reports of Ospreys: two near a transient pond between U.S. 51 and Swan Pond, Ballard County, April 10 (CP); two at Lake Barkley, north of U.S. 68, Trigg County, April 10 (CP); one at Blotz Lake, Grant County, April 13 (KP); one feeding at Beaver Lake, Anderson County, April 13 (KP); one flying over Science Hill, Pulaski County, April 18

(JEL); four at LBL, April 18 (JB, PB); one fishing above the dam at Herrington Lake, Mercer County; April 20 (KP); one in Boyle County, May 1 (FL, WK, MM); one at Deatsville, Nelson County, May 6 (BM, CMS); and five reports of singles from MCFH between March 27 and May 6, except for three on April 12 (FB). There were three reports of Mississippi Kites on May 2, one in Hickman County, near Highway 58 (HC, KC), one in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam (BM, MM), and one at Bon (BM, MM); nine were present on BWMA, May 27 (BM, MM, CMS). Up to three Bald Eagles were present at MCFH between March 7 and March 21 (FB); an immature was observed near the Greenwood boat dock on the Ohio River in southwestern Jefferson County, March 17 (DS); and there were several sightings of two adults in Ballard County during May (CP). N. Harriers were not as numerous this year as in 1989: single females were seen in Grayson County at two locations in mid-March (KC); one female was noted in Muhlenberg County, March 28 (LR, KC); and a male flying over Boyle Knobs, Boyle County, May 14, was late for that general area (FL). There were a few sightings of Cooper's Hawks from March 17 to May 15. The following Red-shouldered Hawks were reported: two at Caperton's Swamp, Louisville, April 5 (FM); one at MCNP, April 8 (PB, JB); two at Green River Wildlife Management Area, Adair County, March 1 (JEL); one near Smiths Grove Church, SW of Caneyville, Grayson County, May 10 (AW); two separate birds in Casey County, May 14 (FL, WK), and one a few days later at the edge of Danville, Boyle County, where the species is "unbelievably rare" (WK, *fide* FL); and a pair noted throughout the period in Anchorage, Jefferson County, where the species regularly breeds (BM, MM). No large movements of Broad-winged Hawks were reported; one to two were noted in five counties, April 18 to May 3. A Rough-legged Hawk was fairly late in Dan, April 4 (WK, *fide* FL). A Golden Eagle was seen at Bon, March 28 (CP). Peregrine Falcons have been seen more frequently, and we had reports of three individuals: one on the Kennedy Bridge, Louisville, Jefferson County, March 14 and 17 and April 21 and 29 (BM, CMS); a juvenile perched along I-24 near Hopson, Caldwell County, May 3 (BM, MM); and one at SWMA, April 26 (LMc, DC, JC, KCa).

Wild Turkeys through Cranes — There were several sightings of Wild Turkeys in Boone County during the period (LMc), two sightings of single birds at MCNP, April 20 and 25 (JB, PB), and one in Ohio County, May 26 (BM, MM, CMS). No large numbers of Soras were found, but three were seen at East Bend Power Plant, Boone County, May 8 (LMc); two were noted in Ohio County (BM, MM, CMS), one near Bon (BM, MM, CMS), and one at the gravel pit at Bellevue, Boone County (LMc, JC, KCa, TS), all on May 9. Am. Coots were evident at LPew, where 177 were counted on March 17 (JH); 52 were noted at Lake Linville, Rockcastle County, March 18 (DCh). Sandhill Cranes were migrating March 1-8, with the highest number (150) over BPS, March 5 (KC); 40+ over Middletown, Jefferson County, March 8 was the next largest group (Rose Monroe, *fide* BM); 30+ in eastern Hardin County, March 1 (CMS); and smaller groups were seen at two other locations.

Shorebirds — Shorebird habitat was limited this spring since low-lying fields, ditches and puddles dried up quickly; although numbers on the whole were low, 17 species were reported. The only Black-bellied Plovers were seven birds in the vicinity of Swan Pond, Ballard County, May 15 (CP). No Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported. Semipalmated Plovers (1-3) were recorded at Almo Heights, Calloway County, April 22 and 23 (CP); 10+ at Bon, May 2 (BM, MM); and up to 14 at MCFH, May 4-31 (FB). Up to five Greater Yellowlegs were noted on four occasions between March 21 and May 30 at MCFH (FB); about 50 were at Bon, March 28 (CP), 17 at SWMA, April 11 (LR, KC), and one to five at four other locations. Some 50 Lesser Yellowlegs were at Bon, March 28 (CP); 8 on both April 10 and May 2 at MCFH (FB); and about 110 at SWMA, April 11 (LR, KC). Solitary Sandpipers were reported from nine locations in low numbers, with 15 as the highest count in Hart County, April 25 (MS, SK); 10+ were at Bon,

May 2 (BM, MM). Four Willets were seen in Calloway County, April 26 (CP). One to four Spotted Sandpipers were found at four locations, April 19 to May 7 (FM, JB, PB, BM, MM). A Ruddy Turnstone was reported from MCFH, May 28 (CMS). Semipalmated Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers were reported from only four areas, with 25+ of the former and 20+ of the latter present at Bon, May 2; highest counts of Semipalmated were 58 on May 30 and 63 on May 31 at MCFH (FB). Six White-rumped Sandpipers were at Bon, May 2 (BM, MM); at MCFH, five were noted on May 28 (CMS), three on May 30 (FB), and seven on May 31 (FB). Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Bon, May 2 (BM, MM), and one was observed at MCFH, May 17 (FB). A flock of about 100 Pectoral Sandpipers was the highest count this spring at Bon, March 28 (CP); 50+ at Bon, May 2, was the next highest number (BM, MM); and other reports were 37 at SWMA, April 11 (LR, KC), 20 in Ballard County, April 10 (CP); and several others of six or fewer individuals in Calloway County (CP). Quite unusual was a sizeable flock of about 80 Dunlin on March 28 at Bon (CP), apparently the next to largest spring number recorded; some 20 remained until April 4 (CP). A single Stilt Sandpiper reached SWMA by April 11 (LR, KC). Small numbers of Dunlin, Stilt Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were present at SWMA, April 26 (LMc, *et al.*). A single Dunlin was seen at MCFH, March 21 (FB). In a flock of 40 dowitchers, 28 were identified as Short-billed by the breeding plumage and/or call note, at Bon, May 25 (CP). Am. Woodcock was first sighted in Barren County in early March (RS) and Grayson County on March 5 (AW).

Gulls and Terns — An adult Laughing Gull was present at Kentucky Dam, May 26 (BM, MM, CMS). Bonaparte's Gulls were fairly numerous at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, with 80+ present, March 3 (JEL), and at MCFH between March 11 and April 12, with about 60 present on the latter date (FB); and last recorded below Kentucky Dam with two adults and one immature, May 3 (BM, MM). Up to 18 Ring-billed Gulls were at MCFH between March 11 and May 25 (FB); one was at LPew, March 17 (JH); and 112 were counted on the wall below McA, March 19 (LR). One Herring Gull was noted at MCFH, March 27 (FB). One Caspian Tern was at MCFH on April 12, with seven on May 15 and three on May 28 (FB); two were below McA, April 19 (LR); one at Barkley Dam, May 2 and 3 (BM, MM); one at East Bend Power Plant, Boone County, May 8 (LMc, JC KCa, TS); and last reported with five in Ballard County, May 15 (CP). Common Terns were scarce with only two reports of single birds at Barkley and Kentucky dams (BM, MM). There were 27 Forster's Terns at MCFH on May 2 and one the following day (FB); 10+ at Barkley Dam, May 2, and 25+ the following day (BM, MM); and 10+ at Kentucky Dam, May 9 (BM, MM, CMS). Six Least Terns were in Hickman harbor, Fulton County, May 15 (CMS); eight were in Ballard County, May 23 (CP); and two were near Hickman, May 27 (BM, MM, CMS).

Cuckoos through Flycatchers — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were late in arriving and were scarce. Great Horned Owls were reported from five locations in four counties during March and April. Five Short-eared Owls were seen near Wysox Lake, Ohio County, March 28 (KC, LR). Three Common Nighthawks arrived early at Lei, March 21, and established an early date for Kentucky (AW). Chuck-will's-widow was first heard at Hanson, Hopkins County, April 10, which is fairly early (Bonnie West *fide* JH). A Whip-poor-will was heard as early as March 17 at Lei (AW); others arrived on April 7 at Hanson and Madisonville (JH). Chimney Swifts were first noted at Louisville, April 9 (CMS), recorded at Morehead, Rowan County, April 13 (FB), and reported as "numerous" in Prospect, Jefferson County, April 15 (FM). A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird returned to BPS, April 8, with three males and a female present by April 23 (KC). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported at Kentucky Dam, Marshall County, May 9 (BM, MM, CMS); another was near Hailwell, Hickman County, May 15 (CMS). Two calling Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at BNP, May 25 (CMS). An Alder Flycatcher was seen

and heard in western Hickman County, May 15 (CMS). A Willow Flycatcher was first heard at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, May 13 (JH), at MCFH, May 14 (FB), near Perryville, Boyle County, May 18 and 23 (FL, WK), and near Petersburg, Boone County, May 25 (LMc); one heard in Casey County was unexpected, June 1 (WK, *fide* FL). There was some movement noted of the E. Phoebe at MCNP on March 2, when eight were recorded (JB, PB); there were more in central Kentucky this year than usual (FL). An E. Kingbird was first reported on April 12 at MCFH (FB). A *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* was found by Bernie McCloud in the Grayson Lake Dam area, Carter County, where it remained from April 27-30; it was seen and photographed by many observers, constituting the first record for this region (FB, CMS).

Swallows through Wrens — Three Purple Martins had arrived at nesting boxes in Lei by March 1, 25+ there by April 16, and 50 on April 29 (AW). Two Tree Swallows reached Green River WMA, Adair County, March 1, but no sizeable concentrations were noted there (JEL); at MCFH, about 150 were present on March 27 and April 18, 75 on April 12, above normal numbers for this area. A single N. Rough-winged Swallow appeared at Pul, March 22, and tied our 1989 record at the same site (JEL). Bank Swallows were migrating over Lentz's Pond, Jefferson County, April 27, when 50+ were observed; 10+ were still there on May 4 (BM). Approximately 80-90 Cliff Swallows were found in Breckenridge County, April 14 (KC); 25 were at the CRL nesting colony on April 18 (FB); and 30+ were in Marion County between Liberty and Lebanon, April 28 (FL). Two Barn Swallows were first recorded in Pul, March 22 (JEL). In addition to the above, a cold front passage on May 6 produced flocks of hundreds of swallows (all species except Purple Martin) at MCFH (FB). On several trips from Fulton County to Ballard County, a few Fish Crows were heard and seen (CP, BM, MM, CMS). There were two reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at Pul, March 22 (JEL), and two at Berea, Madison County, April 14 (DCh). Encouraging were the three reports of Bewick's Wren: a pair at Lei, April 28 (AW); two near Hamlin, Calloway County, May 9 (CP); and one singing near Antioch church, Washington County, May 18 (FL, WK). House Wrens returned later than usual, with the earliest on April 14 at Cave City, Barren County (MS). There were only two reports of Winter Wren: one in MCNP, April 8 (JB, PB); and one in Jefferson County Forest, April 11 (BM, MM). Two Marsh Wrens were seen and more heard in Owensboro on a KOS field trip, April 26 (JW, A. Powell); one was near Hamlin, along Kentucky Lake, Calloway County, May 8 (JEL).

Kinglets through Vireos — Both kinglets were in low numbers. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to BPS on April 5 (KC) and MCFH on April 10 (FB); 12 were present at SWMA, April 11 (LR, KC); and there were one or two at three other locations. There were mixed reports of E. Bluebird: there seemed to be fewer birds than last year in Dan (FL), but in northern Jefferson and Oldham counties, numbers were up (FK, BM). The thrush migration seemed to be poor, with numbers exceptionally low for Gray-cheeked (which were also quite late), but Swainson's were up in numbers in the Louisville region. Am. Pipits were widespread and reported from six areas: a small flock (seven) were counted on March 13) at Lentz's Pond, Louisville, Jefferson County, March 11 (CMS) and March 13 (BM); small numbers at Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County, March 13 and 14 (LMc); singles near SWMA, March 28 (LR, KC), and at Pul, April 4 (JEL); flocks of 15+ near Oak Grove, Christian County, and eight near Chaney Lake, Warren County, May 3 (BM, MM). Cedar Waxwing migration was best from mid-March to early April, with high counts of 120+ at Cave City, Barren County, March 11, and 60+ there on March 15 (MS), and 80+ at Madisonville, Hopkins County, April 1 (JH); there were also 35+ in Lei, May 30 (AW), 20+ at BPS, May 31 (KC), with a few reported elsewhere. Although Loggerhead Shrikes are still fairly common in western Kentucky, there were only a few reports from Dan and Barren County. A White-eyed Vireo was first recorded in Hopkins County, April 10 (JH) and at MCFH on

April 18 (FB). A Bell's Vireo was heard singing in the Ohio County strip-mine area south of Cool Springs, May 2 (BM, MM) and May 26 (BM, MM, CMS). A Solitary Vireo was at NBSP, April 10 (JB, PB). Eleven or twelve Warbling Vireos were seen or heard in Boyle and Marion counties, May 18, (FL, WK).

Warblers — The warbler migration this spring was not as exciting as in some years; as one observer stated "it was drawn out and somewhat uneventful." Both the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were present at LBL, April 18 (JB, PB); the Golden-winged was also found at MCNP and near Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County. Twenty plus Tennessee Warblers were noted in western Kentucky, April 18 (JB, PB). An Orange-crowned Warbler was singing on the University of Louisville campus, Jefferson County, May 6 (CMS). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found in Hart County, April 25 (MS, SK). Pine Warblers were present in Madisonville, Hopkins County, throughout the entire period (JH); ten were at NBSP, April 10 (JB, PB). A Prairie Warbler at SWMA, April 11, was fairly early (KC, LR). Three Palm Warblers were encountered in Lei, April 12 (AW), ten were at LBL, April 18 (JB, PB), and singles were seen in Ohio and Fulton counties, May 9 (BM, MM, CMS). Black-and-white Warblers were present in good numbers (15) at NBSP, April 10 (JB, PB). Worm-eating Warblers were found at six locations, with eight at MCNP, April 20 (JB, PB). Louisiana Waterthrushes arrived later than usual: one at MCNP, April 8 (JB, PB); four at NBSP, April 10 (JB, PB); one in Jefferson County Forest, April 11 (BM, MM); and in eastern Kentucky, two at MCFH, April 18 (FB). A Mourning Warbler was present at BNP, May 25 (CMS).

Tanagers through Finches — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in low numbers throughout the migration period. Blue Grosbeaks are increasing throughout the state: records of interest include one found in Lincoln County, April 23, the earliest record for that area, but few seen thereafter (FL); a male seen in Grayson County along Highway 79, April 30 (KC); common in an Ohio County strip mine area, May 2 and 9 (BM, MM, CMS); one at University of Kentucky Agricultural Farm, Lexington, Fayette County, May 6 (WD); and one at Science Hill, Pulaski County, May 19 (D. Elmore, *vide* JEL). An Indigo Bunting had returned to Prospect, Jefferson County, April 16 (FM); other arrival dates were April 20 at Hanson, Hopkins County (*vide* JH) and April 21 at BPS (KC). The bird of the season was a *Green-tailed Towhee* that appeared in a residential section of Central City, Muhlenberg County, May 6. The bird was found by nine-year old Jenny Neace, who reported it to her mother, Susan Neace; after identifying the bird, Susan put the record on the Kentucky bird hot line. The bird remained May 6 through 9 and was seen (and photographed) by CMS, BM, DS, S and FS; it constitutes a first state record. Henslow's Sparrows were noted at two locations in Ohio County, April 25 and May 2 and 9 (BM, MM, CMS). One to three Fox Sparrows were observed at five widely scattered locations, March 2-27 (BM, MM, CMS, KC, DS, JH). The only reports of Lincoln's Sparrow were for 10+ birds on the levee, Fulton County, May 2 (BM, MM), one at MCFH, May 15 (FB), and one in Crescent Hill, Louisville, Jefferson County, May 7 (CMS). Fifteen White-throated Sparrows was the maximum number at a feeding station in Madisonville, Hopkins County, May 6 (JH); the species was last recorded at Lei, May 26 (AW). White-crowned Sparrows were last recorded at Lei, May 28 (AW). A single Dark-eyed Junco was still present at Burlington, Boone County, May 10 (LMc). Bobolinks were first noted in the Owensboro area, April 26, on a KOS field trip (JW, A. Powell, M. Flynn); other reports included 10+ in Fulton County, May 2 (BM, MM) and 30+ in Calloway County, May 9 (CP). A pair of *W. Meadowlarks* were heard singing and calling one mile west of Sassafras Ridge, Fulton County, May 15 (CMS); one individual was heard calling there, May 27 (BM, MM, CMS). Both Orchard and N. (Baltimore) Orioles were scattered and reported in low numbers only. The poor Purple Finch flight was reflected in the low number of migrants this spring; practically all reports were of single birds with the exception of those at BPS, where as many as 45 were counted, March 22-April 11 (KC). There were

few Pine Siskins this spring: at a feeder near Bronston, Pulaski County, 12+ were seen (JEL), whereas all other reports were of one to five birds.

Contributors — Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Fred Busroe (FB), Joe Caminiti (JC), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), David Chaffin (DCh), Kathryn Clay (KC), Herbert L. Clay, Jr. (HC), Dona Coates (DC), Wayne Davis (WD), Jackie Elmore (JEL), J. W. Hancock (JH), William Kemper (WK), Steve Kistler (SK), Lewis Kornman (LK), Frank Krull, Sr. (FK, Sr.), Fred Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Fred Mansmith (FM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), Clell Peterson (CP), Kerry Prather (KP), Lene Rauth (LR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Thomas Stephens (TS), C. M. Stinson (CMS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Alita Wilson (AW), Jim Williams (JW).

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, and P. O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40223.

KENTUCKY BALD EAGLE COUNT FOR 1992

JAMES DURELL AND DAVID YANCY

Target dates for the 1992 eagle census were January 10 or 11, within a time frame of January 2-15. Weather was unusually warm and visibility was excellent. The warm weather was thought to have discouraged eagles and their waterfowl prey from moving from northern states into Kentucky. The count rose from 167 Bald Eagles in 1991 to 239 in 1992. Percentages of immature Bald Eagles for 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 were 36%, 33%, 24% and 36%, respectively.

In 1992, four nests were active in Kentucky. Two eaglets were hatched in the nest on the Ballard County Wildlife Area and three hatched in another nest. Two nests were on the Kentucky section of the Land Between the Lakes and another was in Tennessee. Table I summarizes the 1992 census data, with some earlier high records and the 1991 count.

Eagles within 15 miles of similar birds previously reported were not added to the totals. In 1991, 55 observers in 28 parties reported 267 other raptors. Sixty-one observers in 29 parties reported 388 other raptors (averages for 1985 to 1991 are in parentheses) as follows: Black Vulture 0 (16); Turkey Vulture 15 (9); Osprey 1 (0.3); Northern Harrier 15 (4.6); Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 (1.7); Cooper's Hawk 5 (1.7); Northern Goshawk 0 (0.14); Red-shouldered Hawk 4 (3); Red-tailed Hawk 156 (70); Rough-legged Hawk 3 (2); American Kestrel 150 (90); Merlin 1 (0.14); Peregrine Falcon 0 (3 in 1990, not verified by a biologist); unknown hawks 31 (4); Great Horned Owl 1; Common Barn Owl 0 (0.14).

In 1991 there were 147 eagle counters in 66 parties. In 1992 there were 192 people in 97 parties, representing the Kentucky Ornithological Society, Kentucky, Indiana, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife agencies, Land Between the Lakes, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Knox, Mammoth Cave National Park, Bluegrass Ordnance Depot, Owensboro Area Museum, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Kentucky Department of Parks, Audubon Society and Bernheim Forest.

**TABLE I — Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 1-15, 1992,
with some earlier high counts.**

| ROUTE | 1992 | | | | Earlier Records | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|-------|------|--------------------|------|
| | Ad. | Imm. | Total | 1991 | High | Year |
| Land Between the Lakes | 59 | 37 | 96 | 72 | 112 | 1990 |
| Reelfoot Lake | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| Blood River - S. Calloway | | | | | 2 | 1990 |
| Mississippi River | 17 | 5 | 23* | 31 | 72 | 1984 |
| Kentucky Bend | (3) | | | | | |
| Ohio R., up to Carrsville | 20 | 22 | 42 | 27 | 89 | 1986 |
| Ballard Wildlife Area | (9 | 12) | | | | |
| Swan Lake, Ballard Co. | (1 | 3) | | | | |
| Below Barkley Dam | (2 | 1) | | | | |
| West Ky. Wildlife Area | (1 | | 3)* | | | |
| Ohio, Carrsville to Henderson | 9 | 4 | 13 | 4 | 17 | 1989 |
| Ohio, Henderson to Meade Co. | 2 | | 3† | | | |
| Ohio, Meade to Louisville | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1986 |
| Ohio, Cincinnati to Ashland | 2 | | 2 | | | |
| Bernheim Forest (1 golden) | | | | 1 | 3 | 1990 |
| Nolin River Lake | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1990 |
| Ohio Co. | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Lake Vega, Madison Co. | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Muhlenberg Co., Green River | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Marion Co. | 1 | | 2* | | | |
| Green River Lake | 6 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 1986 |
| Barren River Lake | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1989 |
| Dale Hollow, Ky. portion | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 38 | 1989 |
| Cumberland River, below Burks. | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Cumberland River, above Burks. | 1 | | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1986 |
| Lake Cumberland | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 26 | 1990 |
| Laurel Lake | 9 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 9 | 1985 |
| Grayson Lake | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1989 |
| Martin's Fork Lake | | | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1988 |
| Dewey Lake | | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1990 |
| Cave Run Lake | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 1989 |
| Total Bald Eagles | 150 | 86 | 239* | 167 | | |
| Adult Golden Eagles | | | 3 | | | |
| Cooperators | | | 192 | 147 | | |
| Census parties | | | 97 | 66 | | |

() Included in figures above.

*Includes Bald Eagles, age unknown.

†Yellowbank Wildlife Area. Includes 1 unknown age.

3 Golden Eagles: 2 adults at Ballard Co. Wildlife Area, 1 adult at Bernheim Forest.

Other areas censused where searchers found no eagles: Ohio River-Trimble County to Cincinnati, Kentucky River, Guist Creek Lake, Rough River Lake, Mammoth Cave, Lake Beshear, and Herrington, Martin's Fork, Buckhorn, Carr Fork, Dewey and Paintsville Lakes.

— Kentucky Ornithological Society, 308 Meadow Lane, Frankfort.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Frankfort 40601.

FIELD NOTES

Great Blue Herons Nest in Pulaski County

On 23 June 1992 a group of nine people from Somerset Bird Club went to a Great Blue Heron heronry on the shore of White Oak Creek, an arm of Lake Cumberland. The heronry is at the top of a steep forested slope leading to water. It was difficult to see how many nests there were or how many held birds because they were about seventy-five feet above the ground in living beech trees and leaves obscured the view. Seven nests were observed, some with large young in them or with young standing on nearby branches. It appeared that the young were almost ready to fledge. In the immediate area of the nests the ground was covered with poke weed, which is a different ground cover from that in the surrounding forest. Black and Turkey Vultures use the area as a roost. The heronry is on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property, so permission for access must be obtained. According to an area resident, Great Blue Herons nested in this area in 1991. I have also been informed that this is the first colony in the eastern portion of the state that has been reported to the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

—CAROLYN GAY HODGES, 141 Water's Edge Drive, Somerset, Kentucky 42501.

Green-tailed Towhee in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky

At approximately 6:00 p.m. C.S.T. on May 6, 1992 my nine-year-old daughter, Jenny, asked me to identify a bird at our feeder. After checking it through binoculars, I spent a frustrating evening reviewing the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region* (Alfred A. Knopf), and *The Birds of North America* (Golden Press). Our stranger was about the size and body color of a female Cardinal, with a rufous cap, white throat, white belly patch, and lime green wing tips and tail. My best guess was that it was a Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*), but my guide said that it could not be. On Thursday night, after looking at another illustration of the towhee in an old field guide in the library, I observed the bird feeding extensively at the feeder area through the binoculars, matching the bird's features with the drawing in my book. I called the sighting in to the rare bird hotline number May 7.

Mike Stinson and Burt L. Monroe Jr. contacted my husband Jacob on the morning of May 8, and he was able to verify that the bird was still with us. The bird very graciously appeared at the feeder area within minutes of their arrival from Louisville about 10:30 that morning. They confirmed the bird's identity and observed and photographed him eating and chasing off our Cardinals. The bird was also observed by Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. for a lengthy period later that day.

On Saturday, May 9, we did not see the Towhee until nearly noon, when my daughter saw it further back in the wooded area adjacent to our home. It was sighted about 2:00 p.m. by Anne and Fred Stamm and Don Summerfield. My son, Mark, Jenny, Jacob and I last saw the bird make a feeding stop about 7:00 p.m. that evening.

This brief visit was the first record of the Green-tailed Towhee in Kentucky. For a family of novice birders it was an extraordinary event in our lives.

—SUSAN E. NEACE, 401 N. 6th Street, Central City, Kentucky 42330

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. Fall Meeting

The Fall 1992 meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held 2-4 October at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. If you would like to make a presentation at the Friday evening meeting, please contact Fred Busroe, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky 40351. Make plans to attend for fun, fellowship and good birding.

K.O.S. Field Trips

Saturday, 10 October — A trip is planned to observe shorebirds, ducks and possibly a Sora at Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, Henderson, Kentucky. We will meet at the McDonald's on Highway 41 in Henderson at 8:15 a.m. central time. Bring a lunch and shoes suitable for a walk through the marsh. The leader will be Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. - (502) 426-8549.

Saturday, 5 December — Hawks, Short-eared Owls and other birds will be sought on the Ohio County Strip Mines. The group will meet at Jerry's restaurant on the Western Kentucky Parkway (near the Beaver Dam exit) at 8:15 a.m. central time. Bring a sack lunch. The leader will be Kathryn Clay - (502) 895-3346.

The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm, our staff artist, for this excellent painting of a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

THE NESTING SEASON, 1992

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

June was much cooler than last year. In fact, the average temperature for the month in Louisville was 72.1 degrees which is below normal. July temperatures, however, were on average, slightly above normal, but still much cooler than last year. Humidity was high for much of the month. Rainfall for the month of June was slightly below normal in the Louisville area, while in July the rainfall was 6.51 inches which is 2.41 inches above normal. In Lexington the rainfall was over 10 inches for the month.

Abbreviations: BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BBM = Big Black Mountain, Harlan County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; BL = Black Lake, southwest of Bardwell, Carlisle County; BCNP = Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, Boone County; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; L#9 = Lake No. 9, Fulton County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Trigg/Lyon counties; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Mayf = Mayfair Basins, Louisville, Jefferson County; McA = McAlpine Dam (Falls of the Ohio), Louisville, Jefferson County; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County.

Cormorants through Herons — Three Double-crested Cormorants were noted perched on dead trees on Shippingport Island, Jefferson County, June 23 (LR); one was at MCFH, July 5 (FB). A Least Bittern was seen at the edge of a marsh on PHSM, July 11 (LR, BBC). A single Great Blue Heron was seen at LPew, June 12 (JH); eight were in the vicinity of BL, June 19 (CP); one was at Mayf, July 1 (BM); thirteen were observed below McA, July 16 (LR); and four were seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). Six Great Egrets were found in the vicinity of BL, June 17 (CP); one at Mayf, July 1 (BM); one to three birds at McA, July 2-13 (LR); one at a pond near Carlisle, Nicholas County, July 14 (VK, WKi); two along River Road, Jefferson County, July 22 (CMS); and one at MCFH, July 5 (FB), with three there, July 25 (KC, LR). Four Snowy Egrets and nine Little Blue Herons (5 adults, 4 immatures) were observed in the vicinity of BL, June 19 (CP); an immature Little Blue Heron was present at a pond near Petersburg, Boone County, July 20 and 25 (LMc). The only report of a Cattle Egret was one near Fish Lake, Carlisle County, June 19 (CP). Numbers of Green-backed Herons in recent years have dwindled some in central Kentucky, but fairly good numbers are still in eastern Kentucky in the Appalachian Region; a nest of the Green-backed Heron was found near Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County (no date given — AR, TR); five birds were in the area of PHSM, July 11 (BBC, KC); two birds were noted in both Grayson and Nelson counties (KC); and 14 adults and 3 immatures were seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR); The only report of Black-crowned Night-Herons away from the Louisville region were of six birds on the ponds of Andover golf course in Lexington, Fayette County, July 5 (LR), and one immature at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). The small colony of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons that nested prior to 1992 in Shady Lane Woods (University of Kentucky Farm, Lexington) deserted the site this year (AR); two birds were seen below McA, June 23 (LR).

Waterfowl — In Boone County, a Canada Goose was found incubating at EBPP, May 10, and during June adults with broods were noted at CEL and Petersburg (LMc); at least 79 were noted in Ohio County, July 11 (BBC, KC); and 70+ were recorded at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). A female Wood Duck with a brood of 14 and one with five young were seen at EBPP, May 9, and one with six young at a Bellevue gravel pit, Boone County, May 10 (LMc); two adult birds were also present during the

period at BPS (KC). Mallards with broods were present in Boone County at Florence, May 9, and at CEL during May (LMc); three birds (2 males, 1 female) considered to be wild were seen about two kilometers north of Monticello airport, Wayne County, June 17 (SJS). A Hooded Merganser with a brood of eight young was seen at a slough on SWMA on a KOS field trip, April 26 (LMc).

Hawks through Bobwhite — Thirteen Black Vultures and 30 Turkey Vultures were noted at a traditional roost near Murphey's Pond, Hickman County, June 21 (CP, R. Head); and three Black and eight Turkey Vultures were found in the vicinity of Bondurant, Fulton County, June 29 (CP). An Osprey nest with an incubating adult was seen south of Silo Overlook on Lake Barkley, LBL (no date given — CP); one bird was seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). A Bald Eagle nest with two well-developed young was observed at BWMA beside SR 473; the parent birds were in the immediate area May 23 (CP). Also, a successful Bald Eagle nest at Mud Slough, BWMA contained three young, approximately five weeks old on May 13 (Charles Wilkins, *vide* Vicki Grafe); and one eagle banded June 8 in a nest at Mammoth Furnace, Lyon County, Barkely Lake (Steve Bloemer *vide* Vicki Grafe). Only single Broad-winged Hawks were reported: one near Fulton in Fulton County and one in McCreary County, both on June 21, CP and SJS, respectively. Two immature Peregrine Falcons were seen below McA "chasing each other" as they flew over the rock ledge, July 16 (LR). One Ruffed Grouse (rufous morph) was seen crossing the road on BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). Twenty-four Northern Bobwhites were found on the BBS in Hardin County, June 8 (KC, HC), and 32 on the BBS in Hardin and Meade counties, June 6 (BM); fourteen were recorded in Ohio County, July 11 (BBC, KC).

Shorebirds through Terns — A few shorebirds began returning in July but only in low numbers. A single Greater Yellowlegs arrived below McA, July 9 (LR); and another was at Mayf, July 22 (CMS). A Solitary Sandpiper appeared at a pond near Carlisle, Nicholas County, July 23 (VK, WKi); and two were at Mayf, July 28 (BM). A single Spotted Sandpiper was noted at L#9, July 31 (CP). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were at MCFH, June 3, and eight on June 7 (FB). One Western Sandpiper was at Mayf, July 28 (BM). One White-rumped Sandpiper was noted at MCFH, June 3, and four on June 7 (FB). Although rare in summer, three Ring-billed Gulls were below McA, July 2 (LR). The only Least Tern reported was a single bird at L#9, July 31 (CP). Seven Black Terns were recorded at MCFH, July 26 (Kelly Nickles, *vide* FB).

Cuckoos through Kingfishers — The Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been scarce during the period in northern Kentucky (LMc); two to four birds were noted during June in Cumberland, McCreary, Wayne (SJS), Hardin (KC, HC), and Meade and Oldham counties (BM); two birds were present during the period of BPS and probably nested there (KC); and two were noted in Ohio County, July 11 (BBC, KC). Common Nighthawks seem to be dwindling in numbers in the Berea area, Madison County (AR); three birds were found in PHSM, where they probably nested on the ground (KC, BBC); and four birds were noted at Leitchfield, Grayson County, July 11 (KC). The Chuck-will's-widow is doing well in the Davis Hollow area, Berea, Madison County (AR); one bird was noted on a BBS in Cumberland County, June 2, and five in Wayne County, June 21 (SJS); and two throughout the period at BPS (KC). There were approximately six Whip-poor-wills heard throughout the period at BPS and adjacent areas (KC). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are doing well in Western Kentucky: WB has six feeders up in his yard in rural Murray, Calloway County, and has attracted at least 20 adults, with about 40 birds (including immatures) by the end of July; at LBL about 30 adults were feeding at four feeders (WB); ten birds have been present during the period at BPS (KC); and fair numbers were in Woodford County (SH). Five Belted Kingfishers were seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR).

Flycatchers through Swallows — Two Willow Flycatchers were recorded at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, June 5-July 28 (JH); two were calling at Ballardsville,

Oldham County, June 14 and 16 (BM); and two were present near Petersburg, Boone County, June 22 and July 25 (LMc). A Least Flycatcher was heard calling just below the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). Eastern Phoebe were doing fairly well: a nest with five eggs was found at BCNP, April 18, with young in the nest on May 2 (LMc); sixteen were recorded on the BBS in Cumberland County, June 2 (SJS), 10 in Hardin and Nelson counties (KC, HC), three in McCreary County (SJS), and scattered reports elsewhere. Purple Martins were present but in reduced numbers: in three BBS in south-central Kentucky, one had no Purple Martins, one in Cumberland County had nine and one in Wayne County had five (SJS), but farther north counts in Nelson County recorded 14 (KC) and in Hardin-Meade counties 15 (BM). Interesting was a nest of Tree Swallows at CEL, June 2 (LMc); an adult bird was observed about two kilometers north of the Monticello airport, Wayne County, June 17, as it flew over a large pond with a few dead trees with cavities, a likely nesting location (SJS). A colony of 30 Rough-winged Swallows was found south of Laketon, Carlisle County, in the Mississippi River bank (no date given, probably June 19 — CP). Three small colonies of Cliff Swallows were again found under bridges in Boone County (LMc), and 50+ birds were under two bridges in Breckinridge County (KC); a pleasant surprise was finding a group of 30 Cliff Swallows building nests under two bridges in Marion County between Lebanon and Liberty, a new county record (FL).

Wrens through Waxwings — A Bewick's Wren nest at Leitchfield, Grayson County, was destroyed by House Wrens (AW); and a single bird was seen near Monterey, Owen County, June 6 (LMc). An adult Wood Thrush was seen feeding a fledged cowbird at BCNP, June 22 (LMc). A Cedar Waxwing was seen building a nest 15 feet up in a maple tree, three miles south of LaGrange, Oldham County, June 14, but the nest appeared abandoned June 16 (BM); 26 birds were noted at three locations in Cumberland County, June 2 (SJS); five birds were observed in one location on a BBS in Wayne County (SJS); and two to four birds were found at four locations in Hopkins County (JH).

Vireos through Warblers — A nest of a White-eyed Vireo was nearly complete at EBPP, May 10 (LMc); two to ten birds were noted on BBS in Cumberland, Wayne, McCreary (SJS) and Hardin (KC) counties; and two were present during the period at BPS, where they probably nested (KC). Two Bell's Vireos were seen near Hwy 369 (off School Road) in Ohio County, July 11. A Solitary Vireo was present in McCreary County, June 21, and also heard a few days earlier at the same site (SJS); many were singing on the upper elevations of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). There seemed to be a slight decline in Yellow-throated Vireos in Hopkins County as compared to areas visited since last year (JH); on three BBS in south central Kentucky, four birds were found in Cumberland County, June 2, at least five in Wayne County, June 17, and one in McCreary County, June 21 (SJS). Comments were few on the Warbling Vireo: numbers have decreased in some areas in Louisville where it formerly nested (S); it was recorded at four locations in Hopkins County, but fewer pairs are at LPew than previously (JH); and two were noted in Hardin County on the BBS, June 8 (KC, HC). At least two male Chestnut-sided Warblers were singing near the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). A late Magnolia Warbler remained west of Fairbanks, along Hwy 607, Owen County, through June 6 and is one day later than our latest previous date (LMc). Several male Black-throated Blue Warblers were singing along the road to the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM); one was singing along Bad Branch, Letcher County, June 14 (CMS, MM). Pine Warblers summered again in Hopkins County (JH); seven were reported on the Monticello BBS in McCreary County (SJS); two were at BPS (KC); and one was noted in Hardin County (KC). A Yellow-throated Warbler was singing in mixed pines and deciduous forest at Kingdom Come State Park, Harlan County, June 13, which is of interest because of the ridgetop habitat rather than the normal, stream-bottom location (CMS, MM). The Prairie Warbler was reported in the following counties: Cumberland, Hardin, Grayson, McCreary, Nelson and Wayne. On two stops on the Monticello BBS in

McCreary County, three Cerulean Warblers were noted, June 21 (SJS). Three Swainson's Warblers were singing along Bad Branch, Letcher County, June 14 (CMS, MM). Several Canada Warblers were singing near the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). The Yellow-breasted Chat appeared to be doing fairly well: it was more numerous around Owsley Fork Lake than previously (AR, TR); seventeen were present in Cumberland County, June 2, and nineteen at least in Wayne County, June 17 and 21 (SJS); and smaller numbers were noted in Hardin (KC, BM), McCreary (SJS), Nelson (KC), Ohio (KC) and Oldham (BM) counties.

Tanagers through Finches — Single Scarlet Tanagers were noted at three locations in Hopkins County during early July (JH). One male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was singing near the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). Blue Grosbeaks were reported from the following counties: Cumberland, Hopkins, Ohio, Wayne, Hardin, Meade and Oldham. Dickcissels were in good numbers on PHSM with 50+ on June 20 (BBC, KC); a nest with five eggs was found one mile west of Sassafras Ridge, Fulton County, May 27 (BM, MM, CMS). Chipping Sparrows were found nesting in Grayson (KC) and Barren (RS) counties. It was interesting to find 30 Grasshopper Sparrows on the PHSM, June 30 (KC, LR, JA); four birds were found in Wayne County, June 17, and another in a different locality in the county, June 21 (SJS). Five Henslow's Sparrows were encountered on Hopewell Church Road, Ohio County, June 20 (KC, LR, JA), and three were present at the same place, July 11 (BBC). Noteworthy were the 16 Song Sparrow records at 12 locations in Hopkins County during June (JH). A pleasant surprise was the finding of two male and one female Bobolinks in a meadow off Hwy 42 near where Route 524 turns off to Westport, Oldham County, July 4 (BM, MM), and one observed in flight and another heard in the same vicinity on July 9 (S, FS). Nest-building of the Orchard Oriole was observed at Leitchfield (AW); numbers appear to have declined recently in some locations (S), although there were also reports from Hopkins (JH), McCreary and Wayne (SJS) counties. A House Finch was observed feeding a fledged young, May 18, in the Louisville area (FM); four nests were successful in southwestern Jefferson County, all nests built in hanging fern plants (VJ). American Goldfinches were numerous on the PHSM, July 11 (BBC, KC).

Contributors — Janet Aylward (JA), Wally Brines (WB), Fred Busroe (FB), Herbert L. Clay, Jr. (HC), Kathryn W. Clay (KC), James W. Hancock (JH), Smith Hundley (SH), Violet Jackson (VJ), Virginia Kingsolver (VK), Wendell Kingsolver (WKi), Frederick W. Loetscher (FL), Fred T. Mansmith (FM), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art Ricketts (AR), Teena Ricketts (TR), Anne L. Stamm (S), Frederick W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Stephen J. Stedman (SJS), C. Michael Stinson (CMS), Alita Wilson (AW). We acknowledge with grateful thanks the helpful support of our contributors making this report possible.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, and P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40223.

THE K.O.S. FALL MEETING

C. MICHAEL STINSON

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1992 fall meeting on the weekend of 2-4 October at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park.

The meeting began after dinner Friday evening when President Lee McNeely welcomed KOS members to the state park. The evening program began with a short member's slide show. Following this, the group heard a presentation from Ms. Joyce Fitzgerald, who represents the Peabody Coal Company. She showed slides illustrating the bird life found in recent years on the reclaimed strip mines of western Kentucky, and encouraged cooperation between the Society and those who manage these areas. Her comments were complemented by those of M. Henshaw, a biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife who works on the reclaimed areas. He discussed the desirability of input from KOS members in making wildlife management decisions. Next, Dr. Wayne Davis spoke briefly to the members about two topics. One was the need for new studies of neotropical migrant birds which breed in Kentucky; second was his work with Eastern Bluebirds as he has attempted to design an ideal nest box for the species. He announced that he had some nest boxes available for members to take after the meeting. A brief discussion of the field trips to be held Saturday morning ended the evening session, which was followed by an informal social hour.

Three field trips departed from the state park lodge Saturday morning at about 8 a.m. One group visited Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, another visited several areas in the Land Between the Lakes, and a third birded on the grounds of the park. Most members returned to the state park for lunch. The KOS Board met Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. at the park.

The Saturday evening session began at 7:30 with a special presentation to Mrs. Anne Stamm of Louisville honoring her service to Kentucky ornithology over the past five decades. She received a framed photograph of a White-crowned Sparrow with a plaque commemorating the occasion. Next, President McNeely introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. John Ferner of Thomas More College. Dr. Ferner was a member of an expedition to the Phillipine island of Panay in 1989 when several specimens of a previously undescribed species of bird were collected. He recalled many events from the expedition, including the moments leading up to and following the discovery of the bird, the Panay Striped Babbler (*Stachyris latistriata*). In addition to slides, Ferner had two specimens of the babbler to show to KOS members after the program ended. He also answered questions from the group.

After Ferner's presentation, the evening session continued with a few matters of business. Two changes to the Society's bylaws were passed without opposition. The first gave a revised definition of the role of the Society's Curator, and the second established the Kentucky Bird Records Committee as a standing committee of the Society; it had previously been functioning on an *ad hoc* basis. Next, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers to serve the Society during 1993: President, Lee McNeely; Vice-President, Fred Busroe; Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, C. Michael Stinson; Recording Secretary, Teena Ricketts. No additional nominations were made from the floor, and the slate was elected with no opposition. Next, Mike Stinson tallied birds seen by the group on Friday evening and Saturday and a list of 104 species was compiled. The evening session concluded with a brief discussion about possible field trips for Sunday morning.

Sunday morning, a group birded at a few locations in the Land Between the Lakes before leaving the area.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING

BENTON: Carolyn Jarnagin

BEREA: Teena and Arthur Ricketts

BOWLING GREEN: Priscilla and Blaine Ferrell

BURLINGTON: Janet Anderson, Kathy and Joe Caminiti, Lynda and Lee McNeely

CARLISLE: Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver

COX'S CREEK: Dona and Roger Coates

DANVILLE: Ginny and Neil Eklund

FLORENCE: Joan Carey

GILBERTSVILLE: Madilyn and E. J. Conard

LEXINGTON: Shirley & Wayne Davis, Jean & Michael Flynn, Virginia & Joe Robertson, Gerry & Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Karen Burns, Kathryn & Herbert Clay, Coleen & Fred Mansmith, Rose & Burt L. Monore, Jr., Brainard Palmer Ball, Jr., Don Parker, Anne & F. W. Stamm, Tanya & Michael Stinson

MACEO: Millie and Albert Powell

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Lydia Greenwell, Mike Henshaw, Marilee & Wendell Thompson

PADUCAH: Gene Boaz, Bernice Cadell

SCIENCE HILL: Diane, Jackie, & Bradford Elmore

SOMERSET: Carolyn Hodges

STANLEY: Anna Lee and Thomas Stevenson

UNION: Karen and Tommy Stephens

UTICA: Brenda and Tony Eaden

JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA: Lene Rauth

DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE: Betty and Kenneth Leggett

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING

Birds observed on Saturday field trips to the Land Between the Lakes and the vicinity of Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park included: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern

Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Lesser Golden-Plover, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellow throat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 104 species.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
FISCAL YEAR 1991-1992

Bank Balance as of September 25, 1991 \$1279.20

| RECEIPTS | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Membership Dues | \$3,641.00 | |
| Interest Income: | | |
| Endowment Fund | 196.14 | |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 84.89 | |
| Meetings | 211.00 | |
| Sale of Patches | 7.50 | |
| Sale of Checklists | 51.40 | |
| Sale of Annotated Checklists | 361.88 | |
| Sale of Old Warblers | 15.00 | |
| Sale of Books | 400.00 | |
| (Tax) | 24.00 | |
| Donations to | | |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 10.00 | |
| Endowment Fund | 26.00 | |
| | | <u>5028.81</u> |
| | | 6308.01 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| Printing Cost (Warbler - 4 Issues) | 2386.00 | |
| Printing for Materials, Bylaws, etc. | 187.45 | |
| Dr. Fred Alsop (honorarium) | 100.00 | |
| Speaker Expenses | 22.00 | |
| Membership Brochures | 200.15 | |
| Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (payment for Annotated Checklists) | 254.81 | |
| Kentucky State Treasurer (filing) | 4.00 | |
| Bird Alert Phone | 248.32 | |
| Safe Deposit Box (2 years) | 50.00 | |
| Office Supplies | 254.98 | |
| Sales Tax Use | 30.75 | |
| Postage | 499.47 | |
| Jeannie McKee (overpayment on Annotated Checklists) | 1.95 | |
| Paul Denit (overpayment dues) | 4.00 | |
| Spring Meeting | 190.00 | |
| ABA overpayment (Annotated Checklists) | 14.46 | |
| Kentucky Checklists | 71.50 | |
| Hawley Cooke Booksellers (refund) | 21.00 | |
| Beckham Bird Club Dues | 7.00 | |
| Jon Rickert (overpayment dues) | 8.00 | |
| Service Charge | .24 | 4556.08 |
| | | 1751.93 |

Bank Balance as of September 24, 1992

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Balance in Savings Account | 3371.09 |
| Certificates of Deposit (4) | 5891.43 |
| | \$9262.52 |

FIELD NOTES

Observations of a probable Pacific Loon in western Kentucky

During the afternoon of 3 May 1991, while birding at the dam forming Kentucky Lake on the border of Livingston and Marshall counties, Kentucky, Burt L. Monroe Jr., Mark Monroe, and I spent about 20 minutes watching an apparent Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). The loon was in basic or first winter plumage and was swimming in the company of a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Although we were never closer to the loons than about 100 meters and light conditions were only fair, we had two spotting scopes which allowed us to observe the loons reasonably well. Both loons remained fairly active while we watched them from a parking area alongside U.S. Route 62.

We realized that we were probably observing a Pacific Loon as we compared it to the Common Loon nearby. It was noticeably smaller than the Common Loon, and showed a distinct division along the sides of its neck between the dark nape and hind neck and the light throat and lower neck, as well as between the light ear coverts and dark crown. This pattern was clearly different from the patchy pattern on the

sides of the neck of the Common Loon. A dark area in front of the bird's eye was visible as well. Its bill was straight, not as thick as that of the Common Loon, and was held approximately parallel to the water. The loon's back and wings appeared dark, but may have had a pattern which we were unable to observe due to the distance at which we saw the bird. Monroe could see a dark line or chinstrap on the bird's neck using a higher power setting of his spotting scope; I could not see this feature with my own 20-power scope. The bird preened occasionally, allowing us to see the division between the dark dorsal and the light ventral sides.

While observing the bird we compared it to the text dealing with loon identification in K. Kaufman's *Field Guide to Advanced Birding* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1990, pages 20-29). I also made a rough sketch of the bird while watching it. After leaving the dam area, we made phone calls to other birders to tell them of the bird's presence. Some birders reported seeing the loon on the following day and on 13 May (KW 67:52), though I am unfamiliar with details of their sightings. A report of our sighting was submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee.

This bird was clearly a member of the Arctic/Pacific Loon complex. Given the known distribution of these birds, it is highly unlikely that the bird we saw was an Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*). Because criteria for distinguishing between these species in non-alternate plumages remain uncertain (*Birding* 20:12-28, 22:70-73, and 24:106-107), and also because the views we had of the bird were not ideal, the loon we saw is being reported here only as a probable Pacific Loon. Kentucky's first record of a loon belonging to this pair of species was a bird seen and photographed on Kentucky Lake 15-19 December 1990. That record, reported as a Pacific Loon on the basis of plumage characteristics (KW 67:27; 47-48 and *American Birds* 45:277-288), was of an individual in a plumage similar to the bird we saw. It may be that the earlier report and the one made here represent sightings of the same individual, which might have wintered on Kentucky Lake or nearby Lake Barkeley. If not, and there is no way to be sure, the bird reported here represents Kentucky's second record of an Arctic/Pacific Loon. — C. MICHAEL STINSON, Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, 40292

Late nesting of House Wrens in Franklin County

Mengel (*Birds of Kentucky*, p. 343-344) indicates that the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) is "often, if not regularly" double-brooded in Kentucky, giving a range of dates for clutch completion from "April 1-10 to July 11-20." Moreover, he approximates the peaks of clutch completion for the two broods as May 11-20 and June 21-30.

Based on Mengel's summary, the observation of the raising of a late, and perhaps third, brood of young in Franklin County is of interest. During July 1992, a pair of House Wrens used a nest box in a yard in Choateville, a western suburb of Frankfort, to raise a brood of young. Based on the late date, this brood was assumed to be the second raised by this pair in 1992. Six eggs were laid during early July and the young were calling in the nest and being fed constantly by both parents on July 21. Sometime during the next few days, the male of the pair seemingly ceased contributing to feeding the young in this box and began filling another nest box about 150 feet away with sticks. By August 11 this nest appeared complete but was empty. All of this occurred while the female involved in the previous nesting nearby continued to care for the young, apparently on her own.

On August 17, a bird was flushed from the second nest, which contained at least four eggs. It is unclear as to whether or not the incubating bird was the female from the previous nesting, especially in light of the fact that male House Wrens are known to be polygynous. On August 30, there were small young, perhaps about three days old in the nest. Sometime during the latter part of August, the male disappeared, and it is believed that the female alone fed the young during the entire period. On September 11, the fully grown young were observed anxiously peering out of the nest box and calling frequently. On the morning of September 12, two of the young were found in the grass near the nest box and placed in a nearby shrub. On the afternoon of September 13, at least three of the young were found with the female in a weedy fence line about two hundred feet away.

Because it is possible that the male was involved with more than one mate, it is impossible to speculate concerning the number of times the female that raised the late brood had nested earlier in the summer of 1992. However, it would appear that the male, and perhaps both members of the late pair, were involved in the hatching of three broods. Regardless, this nesting occurred approximately one month later than the latest dates reported by Mengel. Review of more recent literature finds no such accounts of late nesting in Kentucky, as well. — BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. Field Trips

Saturday, 23 January 1993 - The field trip will be to the Markland Dam Area for waterfowl and winter birds. We will meet at the Markland Dam parking lot off Highway 42 between Warsaw and Carrollton at 9:00 a.m. EST. The trip will last to 11:30 a.m. EST. Leader: Lee McNeely (606-586-7520).

Saturday, 27 February 1993 - The first field trip will be to Spindle Top Farm-Reservoir for winter birds, following which, James Williams will provide a light supper at 5:00 p.m. We will regroup at Raven Run at 6:30 p.m. for the Woodcock walk. Come for all or part. We will meet at Denny's Restaurant, Route 922 at exit 115 off I-64 in Lexington at 2:00 p.m. EST. Leader: James Williams (606-269-3915).

Christmas Bird Count

Christmas (Mid-winter) Bird Counts should be carried out between December 17, 1992 and January 3, 1993. If you were a participant last year, you should have already received information related to your count. Those individuals who would like to initiate a Mid-winter Bird Count should contact the editor for report forms and other relevant information. Thank you.

Spotting Scope Available

Joyce Dawson (606-271-9199) has a Bushnell "Discoverer" 60 mm, 15 × 60 zoom spotting scope with a hard case and a Bausch and Lomb heavy duty tripod available. If you are interested in purchasing it, please contact her.

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By BLAINE R. FERRELL

The names of participants and of species on the midwinter bird counts, Kentucky Ornithological Society meetings and seasonal reports have not been included in this index. The names of species on large tables have also been omitted. The capital letter R is indicative of a book review.

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